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BY ARTHUR SKETCHLEY.

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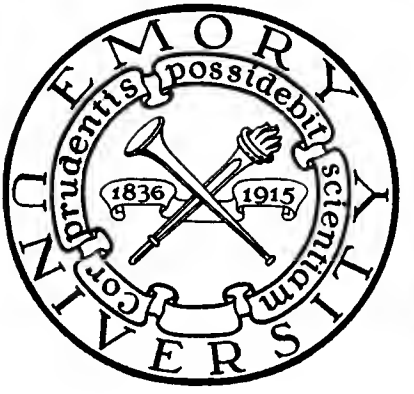

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

MRS. BROWN presents 'er complimongs to Mrs. Eardley, and if you've quite done with my black welwet mantle as you borrowed last Febuary, a-pretendin' for a pattern, tho' often seen out in it arter dusk, by parties as shall be nameless, as wouldn't stoop to be spies, let me 'ave it back as is required thro' Mrs. Brown a-goin' up into the 'ighlands, as is my own business, the same as the land of Egyp', and you need not make no remarks to Miss Challiner, as I only considers 'er a workwoman with 'er shoulder growed out, as never come from too much settin' but was born so I'm sure, as is a meddlin' creetur, and if ever she comes across me, I'll send 'er off with a flea in 'er ear, as the sayin' is.

And pre'aps you'll let the gal 'ave it as is a-waitin', as in course I alludes to the mantle, as I'll 'ave, if above ground, and considers you a ungrateful good-for-nothin' individjual, as is a word I wouldn't stoop to use, but only will remind you as tho' pre'aps a wulgar old cat behind my back am that same Mrs. Brown as come and nussed you from the jaws of death, as the sayin' is, and 'ave lent you money, as you 'ave no doubt forgot; and as to the flannin gownd when you was a-recoverin', you may keep it.

Not as I am one to listen to no tail-bearers, well a-knowin' as the dog as can fetch can carry, as the sayin' is, and adwises you as the next time as you drinks tea, not a 'undred miles from Kennington Oval, not to talk of Mrs. Brown a-makin' a fool of 'erself along with Mr. Cook's escursion on a camel, as is only your dog in the mangy ways.

Not as ever I sets up to be a fine lady, tho' I might 'old my 'ead 'igher than a many, thro' 'avin' been up a perrymid, as can pay twenty shillin's in the pound, as is more than some dukes can.

But one thing I will say, mum, and dares you to

contradict it, as there is them as goes along with Mr. Cook, as is ladies and gentlemen all over, as their manners proves.

As ain't no low-lived ways with them a-grabbin' at everythink, all a-wantin' to be fust, but a-waitin' their turns for bed-rooms, a-standin' round Mr. Cook that patient, like lambs at a slaughter-'ouse, and no grumblin', nor nothink, not as they've any cause to, for all the trouble is took off their 'ands, and only got to eat their meals and enjoy themselves.

As to you're a-rediculin' me about tea-totalers, I 'ave only got to say as I never 'ad the arrysipilas in my 'ead all thro' 'avin' been too free with sperrits, as is things I 'olds with in moderations, partikler medicinal.

As to Mr. Cook a-interferin' with your drinks, of course he wouldn't never think on it, tho' he don't 'old with it, and scorns a flat bottle, and 'ave knowed 'im refuse what they calls Athole brose, as is the Scotch for broth, and certingly I do think as whisky broth is a-comin' it a little too strong, even for the 'ighlands.

But yet, mum, it ain't for you to throw a glass of sperrits and water arter supper in my face; as I defy you to say I took more than one, tho' pressed for to fill up, but if I took a gallon, it's nothink to you, as I considers no better than a woodcock for suction, and may bring a action, if you like, the same as I means to.

And as to my takin' six lessons in writin', as you've put all about the place, there ain't no disgrace in that as paid the money down afore'and, and never run up a public-'ouse score of fourteen pounds, nor got a black-eye from my 'usban' thro' bein' found on the 'earth-rug unsensible with my own mother a-'angin' on to the front railin's a-'owlin', and took 'ome on a stretcher.

Next time as you wants anyone's character took away, pre'aps you'll look at 'ome, as where the shoe pinches is best beknown to them as wears it, as my own business is to me; and when you are asked for to pay my espenses, then you may 'oller about my goin' on a escursion.

Not as you need think as I'd forgot all about askin' you to go to Margate with me, as 'ave been

there, and still would go, as the sayin' is, as will be the first week in August, but am glad as I've found you out, so as not to 'ave a wiper a-festerin' in my bussim to spy out all my doin's, and go and make larks of me behind my back everywheres; and if Mrs. Eardley considers that actin' like the lady, I don't, and Mrs. Brown don't want no more of your acquaintance.

As to your recipy for makin' mixed pickles, it's all fomented, and only fit for the dusthole, as is where I wouldn't 'ave it throwed for fear of its petrifyin' all over the neighbourhood, as is the fit place for a false friend.

So never no more from me as remains,

Yours scornful,

MARTHA BROWN.

As I shall go all over Urope most probable with Mr. Cook, if I likes, and not ask you, and so says my good gentleman, as never could a-bear you.

MRS. BROWN IN THE HIGHLANDS.

I SAYS, "Brown, if you're a-goin' to Scotland, as is a chilly sort of a place as I've 'eard say, with mists as will wet any Englishman thro' and thro' in a instant, take my adwice and wear your double flannins, as will asorb perspiration, which when checked sudden, is well knowed to 'ave throwed thousands on their backs, and brought many a one to their long 'omes, as the sayin' is. And whatever you do, don't you go a-leavin' off your trousers up there, as tho' they may be a encumbrance in climbing, is not to be throwed off in a 'urry nowheres; the same as 'appened to a Irish party when we was a-goin' across from Bristol after 'arvestin', that ragged as parties aboard bought 'im a new pair out of charity, thro' not bein' common decent, leastways, second-'and of one of the sailors as took and pitched the old ones overboard on the spot as made that Irish party 'owl ten thousand murders, as was

'itched up ag'in lucky with a boat 'ook, and found as he'd got golden suvrins sewed up in the waist-band as was 'is savin's, as shows you never didn't ought to throw anythink away sudden, without a-lookin' at the linin's.

And I says, "As to your a-goin' about without 'em, as may be all werry well for them Scotch as is used to it, but I'm sure as I never could bear the sight of you, such a figger, let alone the rheumatics in your knees, as you'll be sure to 'ave, as can't bear never to be about the bed-room without 'em, even while gettin' up a-shavin', tho' always a fine leg as you might be proud on."

So Brown he says to me, "If them's your notions, then I suppose you won't be persuaded for to come to Scotland."

"Well," I says, "in course I shouldn't 'ave to show my legs. And it don't need no persuasions never for to make me do my duty, and in course if you wishes it, I'll go."

"Why!" he says, "I think as it would do you good."

"Well," I says, "I 'ad almost made up my mind not to go nowheres this summer, but a week at Margate, as I do enjoy myself at, and is worth all the other foreign parts wherever I've been to put together."

For I do say as Margate of a fine day, with the

wind a-blowin' you to bits like 'urricanes up your back at the end of the jetty, is 'ealth and strength by the mouthful, and always makes me enjoy my wittles with a good appetite, and every one seems in that good 'umour, as is a reg'lar 'oliday.

I'm sure them 'Sembly Rooms is that grand as is only fit for kings and queens to dance in, as George III. was knowed to do often, with 'is picter carved over the chimbly, and then there's lots of other places as is for them as is more larky like, but the 'Sembly Rooms suits me best, thro' bein' a lady and tho' one of them as their dancin' days is over, but like to see others a-enjoyin' theirselves on the quiet.

"Well," says Brown, "all I've got to say s that you can come to Scotland if you likes, and go to Margate too; as ain't nothink of a ourney."

"Law," I says, "as to that, no journey ain't nothink now-a-days;" for the way as one is whisked thro' the world now is like fairy tales, and would 'ave made my grandmother stare, as only made one journey in all 'er life, as was to Croydon Fair and back, as is the time as pork and walnuts did used to come in season, but now is eat all the year round promiscuous, not as ever I'll believe as pork can be 'olesome in the dog days, and as to them walnuts as you get in spring, all dried up inside, as

the skin won't come off, they're downright beastly, and as bitter as soot.

Ah, poor old soul, she did often used to tell me about that journey, as was werry nigh 'er death thro' the shay cart as she went in bein' upset in the Boro' ag'in a brewer's dray, and put 'er elber out and wasn't never able to straighten 'er little finger to 'er dyin' day.

She was a chatty old soul, and often told me 'ow 'er father come up from Lincolnshire in the tail of the waggon, as were three weeks on the road, and come up with the Pretender's army as were a-marchin' on London thro' bein' the rightful King, and would 'ave took it too, only got a-quarrelin' on the road, as made King George for to shake in 'is shoes thro' fear, as wasn't nothink but a German wenturer, and 'ad got all the crown jewels and things packed up aboard a wessel in the Thames ready to lewant with 'im to Germany, as is where 'e'd 'ave sent eveythink else as he could lay 'is 'ands on, jest like all the rest of them foreign waggerbones as 'ave reg'lar eat us out of 'ouse and 'ome.

Brown he busts out a-larfin' and says, "I do believe, Martha, as you could write a 'istory."

"Ah," I says, "and when I do, you don't ketch me a-puttin' down a lot of lies as is what 'istories in general is; tho' I do believe all the same as the story of Jane Shore is true, as they did used to say

died in a ditch, and serve 'er right too, a 'ussey for to go and desert 'er lawful 'usband for that 'ere waggerbone Edward the Sixth."

"Hold on," says Brown, "it wasn't Edward the Sixth as died a child."

"Ah," I says, "and a good thing too if a lot more 'ad done the same, for I'm sure to read 'ow they went on is enough to turn one's blood, and when I see 'em all at Madam Tussor's in Baker Street, I says, talk of Chambers of 'Orrors, that's where them kings and queens did ought to be amongst the other murderers, and as to that old 'ussey Queen Elizabeth, why 'angin' was a deal too good for 'er; and I'm sure that George the Fourth, many a better man 'ave ended their days on the scaffoldin' "

Brown he says, "When you've quite done a-runnin' down them crowned 'eads, pre'aps you'll say whether you're a-goin' to Scotland or not."

I says, "Brown, your wishes is laws; so if it's Scotland, or Cream of Tartar, or anywheres else as you wishes me to go, I'm there."

But I says, "Whatever can be a-takin' you to Scotland, Brown," as is that wild and rocky, as nothin' but them 'igh dried stuffs, like plaids, as is pretty wearin', and snuff won't grow there, tho' I must say as I 'ave tasted Scotch ale, as drunk pleasant with a bit of cheese and biscuit, and some

fine old whiskey as did used to be made from the dew as falls upon them mountings."

I knows what it is, for I've often tasted it myself at old Mrs. McClogskin's, as kep' a boardin'-'ouse for Scotchmen, as was travellers, close ag'in Fleet Street, as were a dingy old place, with drains enough to pison you, and smelt of onions from mornin' till night, and never wouldn't 'ave a winder open, nor the carpets up, nor yet the sweeps; and blankets on the beds as was the colour of coffee, and worn like sieves, as I wouldn't sleep in now not to be Queen Wictoria.

But were a kind-'arted soul as ever broke bread, tho' nothink couldn't induce 'er to wash 'er 'ands, nor change 'er widder's weeds, as she wore to 'er dyin' day for McClogskin, as died of gout in the stomick in the back parlour, thro' bein' that lusty, as go upstairs he couldn't, and would never 'ave been got down ag'in dead or alive in this world, with a as'ma as might be 'eard across the road, and never went to bed sober for over twenty years, and they do say must 'ave drunk enough to 'ave floated a man of war, and were berried in Bun'ill Fields along with the rest of them others as belongs to that Paradise Lost set, thro' not a-'oldin' with the Established Church; as ain't consecrated ground, and that full now, as 'ave obligated 'em to take to the simmeteries, as is

divided by a iron fence from them as 'ave Christian berrial.

As is a thing as some don't old with, so in course wouldn't be no punishment to be berried at the cross roads by torchlight with a stake drove thro' you the same as the man as murdered 'is wife and 'er mother out by Shadwell, and then went and drownded 'isself in the dry dock, as were brought in "fell o' the sea," as is the same as found drowned, tho' not accidental death; but, in my opinion, did ought to be always trumpery insanity, as it's not likely as any one would go to do it in earnest, for life is sweet, tho' uncertain, and we all clings to it up to the last, like old McClogskin did to the whiskey bottle, and 'is last words was death don't shake the liquor, as were 'is rulin' passion strong in death, as the sayin' is, and precious strong it was, for he wouldn't 'ave 'ardly a drop of water put to it, and the werry smell on it was enough to take your breath away; leastways I did used to think so when a mere gal, as did used to stop with 'em a good deal on and off.

Not as my dear mother could a-bear 'er dirty ways, as went to nuss 'er at the last, for it 'appened as she died jest afore I married; and never shall I forget that 'ouse, as the cats was let run all about, and a pug dog as 'ad been bed-ridden in a easy-chair for many a month thro' bein' over fed, and

the last thing as he 'ad were a fine loin chop, with the place a-swarmin' with rats and mice, for them cats was too well fed to catch 'em.

Talk of 'appy releases, that was one; for I do believe as the putrid fever would 'ave broke out if she'd lived another month, and yet of all the kind souls, as would give you the clothes off 'er back, and it's a wonder they didn't walk off of theirselves, and share 'er last crust with a friend, and never shet 'er door ag'in a relation 'owever poor, as is what I calls a noble 'art, as is the way with them Scotch, as I've knowed as poor as church mice and as proud as Lucifer, as the sayin' is.

It wasn't no use me a-goin' on talkin' to Brown, for he was a-snorin' that loud, as showed 'im to be sleepin' 'eavy on 'is back.

Some'ow I couldn't get to sleep, and kep' a-droppin' off and a-wakin' up, a-fancyin' as I was got to Scotland, and a-dancin' in a kilt, as is a thing I'd die fust afore doin', tho' I 'ave seen a picter of a fieldmale a-forgettin' 'erself like that.

Well, I'd just dropped off sound, when I got a back'ander across the face, as made me jump up like a lamplighter, as the sayin' is, and if it wasn't Brown a-dreamin' too, as said he thought as he was a-playin' some of them wild Scotch games.

So I says, "If that's what the Scotch calls games," I says, "give me right down earnest, as you

can protect yourself ag'in, and not a secret foe as strikes you in the dark;" but law, he was all snores ag'in in a instant.

I says to Brown in the mornin', "I ain't one to give in to no suppositions; but," I says, "supposo that blow as you've give me accidental, seems like a warnin' ag'in Scotland."

"Oh," he says, "rubbish, it's all thro' 'avin' supped off crab, and took brandy arter it."

"Ah," I says, "it will 'arden shell-fish will brandy, it is well beknown, and werry nigh caused Mrs. Eldred's death, tho' only twopennorth as she took on the top of welks, as in course preserved 'em in sperrits, and made 'em like so much grissel, as the woman's stomick were never formed to disgust."

I must say as that there dream and the smack of the face as I got from Brown, which, tho' accidental, swelled my nose up like a sheep's kidney, seemed to set me ag'in Scotland, and I 'ad my misgivin's as I shouldn't feel at 'ome there, and 'ad almost give up the idea of goin', when who should come in but Maria Lukin, as is own cousin to Mary Ann Padwick's 'usband, as is well-to-do people in the leather line, leastways would 'ave rode in their carriage, but for old Lukin a-puttin' 'is 'and to a bill for a friend, as pretty nigh ruined 'im jest afore he died, tho' everythink wound up pretty comfort-

able for the widder and Maria, as is the only child, and as plain a gal as ever showed a face. Not as she can 'elp it, thro' not 'avin' made 'erself, as the sayin' is.

Well, when she'd been in not more than five minutes, she says to me, "Wherever do you think, Mrs. Brown, as ma and me is a-goin' to this summer?"

I says, "I'm sure I don't know, but I supposes Margate."

She says, "No, to Scotland."

I says, "Oh, indeed!"

"Yes," she says, "and all thro' Cook's escursion."

I says, "You don't mean that there Capting Cook as 'ave been all round the world, and I see in the paper is goin' to 'ave a statue set up somewhere by the Duke of Edinbro', thro' bein' nearly killed by them savages."

She says, "I never 'eard as he were a capting."

I says, "Oh, bless you yes, and there's been books wrote about 'im by the score, as would 'ave been killed and eat too, by them kanibal savages in them Sandwiches."

"Oh," she says, a-bustin' out larfin', "you're a-talkin' about what 'appened many many years ago."

I says, "Escuse me, my dear, I knows as I am old enough to be your grandma pretty nigh; but,"

I says, "it ain't manners for to larf at old age, tho' in course I remembers many things 'as 'appened afore you was born or thought on, as can well recollect Queen Caroline 'erself a-comin' to London, and the mob a-breakin' all the winders in Westminster as didn't light up no 'luminations in 'er 'onour, as were a misguided party, no doubt; and they do say give to drink, and died quite sudden thro' a-takin' a dose of laudanum on the top of magnesia, as is a nasty medicine in my opinion, as will lay like undissolved lead in the constitution, and whatever she could 'ave took laudanum on it for I can't think, unless it were give 'er for to get 'er out of the way of that waggerbone, 'er 'usban', like the Princess Charlotte in a bason of gruel, as wanted for to go to the play 'isself, and was stopped at the door by old Townsend, the perlice officer, as told 'im she were inside, and turned back in a instant."

Well I remember myself a-seein' that old man in a brown wig a-settin' in the gallery of St. Martin's Church, as old King George did always used to shake 'ands with reg'lar, but must 'ave been a cruel old wretch for all that, for I've 'eard my dear mother say as he took and chopped the four legs of his next door neighbour's little dog up to the fust jint, thro' the poor beast a-runnin' into 'is passage with dirty feet, ag'in 'is will.

"So," she says, "I'm sure, Mrs. Brown, I didn't go to larf at you, for ma says as you're the best company out, and sent me over to see whether you wouldn't go to Scotland with us, as will be a delightful trip."

"Ah," I says, "my dear, I've made many a trip in my time, but," I says, "I think as my trippin' days is over, tho' it's werry sing'ler as Mr. Brown and me was only a-talkin' a Sunday about Scotland."

"Oh," she says, "do come, it would be such fun."

"Well," I says, "any'ow take off your bonnet and 'ave a cup of tea, as I'm all alone; and I'll put you into the bus myself, as'll take you almost from door to door," for 'er ma and 'er was a-livin' out Nottin' 'Ill way, as the busses runs to from Beaumont Square to, as is close ag'in our 'ouse.

She's a werry clever gal that Maria Lukin, and 'ave 'ad a good edication, with 'er 'ead put on the right way, as the sayin' is, tho' it might 'ave been straighter. I knows all the 'istory of Scotland by 'art, and quite made me long for to go, a-talkin' about Rob Roy and Mad Bess, and Queen Mary, as was murdered before 'er own 'usban's eyes, jest arter supper, as walked in 'er sleep, and so blowed the gaff, as the sayin' is, tho' a wulgar espression for a lady.

So when Brown come in to supper, as were pickled salmon and a cowcumber, with a onion to make it 'olesome, I says to 'im, "Do you know, Brown, arter all I think I should like to go to Scotland with Cook's escursions, as is wonderful cheap."

"Right you are," he says, "and 'owever he can do it, I can't make it out, for I'm sure them as went all over Egyp' with 'im, it's surprisin' to 'ear 'em talk of 'ow comfortable they was."

"Ah," I says, "I've often wished myself at Jericho for not a-goin' along with 'im, that time when we was in Egyp', to Jerusalem, as I 'opes to see now afore I dies, tho' I must say as the saddle don't suit me, a-gallopin' over them desserts."

"Well, then," says Brown, "you'll go to Scotland. I'll get the tickets to-morrow, and we must start next Wednesday fortnight as ever is."

Some'ow or other I had my misgivin's about Scotland, tho' in course I were not a-goin' to blow 'ot and cold, as the sayin' is, about goin' So accordin' began for to get ready.

Mrs. Pennel, as is a werry respectable widder close by us, as is quite friendly like in lookin' in for a chat, tho' rather too fond of talkin' about 'er neighbours for me. She says to me, "Whatever you do, Mrs. Brown, take plenty of brimstone with you, for it's a fine thing, and ain't to be got in Scotland for love or money."

I says, "If you means for a medicine, it's one as I don't 'old with, for I considers it a nasty lowerin' thing, tho' some parties do still give it to children in the spring with treacle, tho' a old fashioned remedy.'

"Oh," she says, "it's fine for skin disorders."

I says, "I ain't got a speck on my skin, not so much as a freckle, let alone no disorders."

"No," she says, "but look out for the fiddle, as is werry much about in Scotland," and busts out a-larfin'

I didn't see no joke, but jest then Tarboy's young man come up in the cart, and I wanted to send back them curtain poles as was too short for the back parlour winder, so 'ad to run out of the room to stop 'im from drivin' off without 'em, and didn't think to ask 'er what she meant by the fiddle, thro' Mrs. Elwins a-comin' in to tea jest then, and reg'lar drove everythink out of my 'ead thro' a disputin' with Mrs. Pennel about the Irish Church, as Mrs. Pennel is for and Mrs. Elwins ag'in, thro' 'er 'usban' bein' a City Mission as 'ave been in Ireland a long while, and 'ad a deal to say ag'in the Pope, and all manner.

She kep' a-sayin' as the Queen's throne weren't safe for 'er to sit on, thro' bein' underminded by Jeserists.

"Ah," I says, "no doubt it must 'ave got rickety

for want of use," the same as Brown's easy-chair as he 'adn't set in for months, thro' bein' away from 'ome, and the first time as he did set down off come a castor with a crunch, as nearly throwed 'im back'ards.

Not as Queen Wictoria cares a bit about 'er throne as she ain't never a-goin' to set on ag'in, as would make 'er nat'rally miss 'im more as did used to set by 'er side, not as it's any use a-givin' way to them feelin's, tho' I do not think if anythink were to 'appen to Brown, as I could never sleep in our four-poster ag'in myself.

Queen Wictoria, she's been and give up everythink—crown, throne, and all; and as to the Irish Church, what does she care about that, as never goes near Ireland 'erself, but if they was to try and touch the Scotch Church, as she attends reg'lar, she'd be up and at 'em like mad, as is never so 'appy as when she's a-'avin' 'er fling-up in the 'ighlands, and is that cheerful as she can go and see the servants' ball; but would rather lay 'er 'ead on the block than allow no dancin' nor goin's on in London.

Not in course as she's got any spite ag'in London, 'cos of 'er 'usban's death, as London couldn't 'elp 'im a-dyin' at Windsor.

As they do say were damp beds and the drains, but whatever they could 'ave been a-doin' to let 'im

get into either, I can't make out; tho' always one I've 'heard say as would look into everythink 'isself, and wouldn't allow no waste, not even down to the pig-wash. As shows a 'umble mind, and called the Prince Concert, thro' bein' that fond of music, as he would set a-playin' and a-singin' by the 'our together.

'Ow I come to know all about it were thro' Mrs. Malchin, as 'ad a friend married to one of them life guards, as is always quartered close ag'in the pallis in case as they might be wanted sudden, and she 'ad wonderful stories all about the royal family, as is what I don't 'old with, for what I says is this, "When kings and queens is on their thrones, in course they're public property, but when in the bussum of their royal families, why, let 'em do as they please; and whyever shouldn't Queen Wictoria 'ave the growed-up princesses frocks altered for the young ones, and let the young gentlemen wear their big brothers' clothes, as they'd out-growed."

Of course Queen Wictoria is a mother 'erself, and knows 'ow to turn everythink to account, and save the country money, as I'm sure it must go to 'er 'art to take the taxes when she knows as she's often obligated to put the broker in to get 'em, as was downright awful on poor Mrs. Cartlit, with 'im a-layin' a corpse, and four on 'em down with scarlet fever, and must 'ave 'ad the bed took from

under 'em if the neighbours 'adn't clubbed together and paid the money.

So in course Queen Wictoria a-knowin' them 'ardships wont spend a-farthin' more than she can 'elp, and I 'oners 'er for it, as is what I calls 'igh principles, and it's lucky as she don't know the money as they've been and spent a-buildin' that 'ere monyment in 'Igh Park, as 'ave been done while 'er back 'ave been turned, or she'd pretty soon 'ave stopped sich waste as would 'ave disgusted that Prince Concert altogether, as were that careful as to pay ready money for 'is clothes at Moses, and 'ave 'is boots soled and 'eeled twice over, thro' bein' brought up that economical over there where he come from.

For I've been there myself and knows as they considers clean linen estravagance, and never 'as their boots blacked, I'm sure, by the look on 'em, and lives on sour cabbage and sassiges as you may smell all down the street, with the beastliest beer as ever I tasted; and always a-smokin', as will stop the stomick a-cravin' for food constant, as is a nasty 'norin' feelin' when short commons is your potion, as is pretty nigh always the case with them poor furriners.

As to the Irish Churches, I says to Mrs. Pennel, "I do 'ope as they'll give some money for to clean 'em up a bit, for there's one down Poplar

way, where all them poor Irish goes, as is dreadful poverty struck, and I 'ave 'eard say as the clergyman is pretty nigh starved to death, tho' a single man, and not like the minister of the parish church, as 'ave eleven children and a wife, all well dressed, as must take all the money he can get to keep, tho' I'm sure he can't live by 'is church, as is pretty nigh empty, thro' 'im a-offendin' all them as could pay for seats with 'is 'igh Church pranks, a-insensin' of the congregation with lighted candles, and all manner; as to the poor, none of them never goes to church, as is well known, except the Irish, tho' I 'ave 'eard say as there's some old people as goes reg'lar to prayers twice a day at one of them 'igh churches, and was allowed a shillin' a week for their pains.

Not as ever I speaks ag'in any one's religion, as isn't nobody else's business but their own. So I says, "Do drop the Irish Church, and let's get on with tea;" for I really did think as them two would 'ave come to blows over it, and as to Mrs. Pennel, thro' bein' a full 'abit, with 'er mouth full, I was afraid as she'd 'ave 'ad a fit, and kep' on sayin' as she'd 'ave all churches done away with on the woluntary principle.

"Ah," I says, "I remembers the voluntary well in all churches," tho' Miss Needham, as were blind, and lived next door, a-playin' the organ as

I've led 'er to myself at the 'sylum for a friend in St. George's Fields, and 'ave blowed the bellus too, as is 'ard work, and couldn't 'elp a-lettin' all the wind out at once, as made 'er scold me wiolent for cuttin' 'er music short, and made that row in the chapel jest as if the gas 'ad blowed up, and terrified the ladies that dreadful as fainted dead away, and screamin' like mad, and 'ung about the minister for protection till the poor man was werry nigh strangled on 'is pulpit stairs.

As were a populous preacher, with a 'and like a almond for whiteness, and a diamon' ring, as glistened wonderful when he put 'is fingers thro' 'is lovely black 'air, as curled beautiful all over; tho' too much grease for me, as I well remembers a-goin' into 'is westry a-smellin' quite faint of castor ile, as may be a fine thing for the 'air, but is a beastly smell under your nose, as I've smelt myself a-settin' behind a young lady at the Cristial Pallis, as 'ad 'er chin'on behind, a-stickin' under my nose, a-listenin' to the music, when I went for to see that 'ere Turkey Vice, as came there with the Prince of Wales for to see England, as was what I calls a shabby return arter the months as they'd been a-stoppin' with all that 'ere Vice over in Egyp', and might 'ave starved at that Cristial Pallis only but for one of them dukes a-standin' treat, a-knowin' well as they

couldn't live on fireworks, tho' they was Turkeys, as is used to be crammed all the world over.

I do believe as that Turkey knowed me ag'in, for I was a-standin' on the terris jest under 'is nose, as the sayin' is, in a lovely gownd looped up as is all the go now, with a blue parrysole lined with green and a pink fringe, and as to the Princess, she never took 'er eyes off me, as is lookin' thin, poor dear, as must 'ave the life dragged out of 'er I should say, with a-goin' about everywheres, a-openin' bazaars and docks and all manner, let alone four children, as is a 'andful for any one; and 'im got that stout as makes 'im look ten years older than he did ought to be, as I knows 'is age well, thro' bein' born on Guy Fox day that same year as Mrs. Rammage's little boy was nearly blowed to atomies thro' 'avin' 'is pocket full of squibs as Sammy Barlow took and set light to behind, a-thinkin' only to scare 'im, and so he did as was only put out thro' a-pitchin' 'ead-foremost into 'is mother's wash-tub as was a-standin' providential at the wash'us door as he run ag'in blindfolded with them squibs a-goin' off at all points, but more frightened than 'urt, tho' werry nigh 'is mother's death; and that's 'ow it 'appened as 'er seventh was born the same day as the Prince of Wales, as is now in the perlice and a-doin' well, tho' I wouldn't 'ave give a rush for neither mother nor child when he was three days

old, nor more wouldn't Mr. Blaxland the doctor as is a man I'd 'ave trusted my life to, as soon as look at 'im, tho' only the parish doctor, but a 'art big enough to attend Queen Wictoria 'erself, as is my esperiences of all doctors as is that kind and never a penny for their pains, with their rest broken night arter night, and no wonder as some will tie up the night-bell, thro' bein' reg'lar wore out, so as not to be disturbed in their sleep, as is often better than wittles and drink.

For I'm sure it was sleep as brought old Rack-straw back from death's door, as the sayin' is, and all thro' a-givin' 'im the wrong medsin, as were 'is grand-daughter's doin' as were left to watch 'im and give 'im the liniment to take, and dabbed 'is eyes with the black draft, as nearly killed 'er mother with the shock, a-comin' back in the room and a-seein' of 'im senseless with 'is eyes as black as the grate, but whatever could they espect from a gal of eleven, and never fetched the doctor nor the stomick-pump neither, and in my opinion a-thinkin' it was all for the best, as the sayin' is, and began a-quarrellin' over 'is diamond pin as he wore in 'is frill, when they 'eard 'im a-knockin' with 'is stick ag'in the wall, and found 'im woke up better than he'd been for years, and lived over fourteen years arter; but they never forgive that gal as married and emigrated, as was the best thing for 'er.

When Brown come in with the tickets he set 'is face ag'in a-goin' to Scotland along with Mrs. Lukin, as he said were a reg'lar brimstone.

"Well, then," says I, "she'll jest suit Scotland, as is where brimstone is wanted."

Says Brown, "If you goes a-cuttin' them jokes when you gets to Scotland, you'll get yourself into a 'ole"

I says, "I'm sure I ain't one to cut no jokes, and if there's nothink but 'oles to be got into in Scotland, I don't want to go, for they're places as I don't 'old with, nor yet corners neither for that matter, except routin' 'em out, as is what you can't get one gal in a 'undred to do, without a-follerin' 'em about constant, as often makes 'em saucy, with a month's warnin' on the spot, for impidence is a thing as I won't take from no gal livin'.

When I 'eard we was a-goin' by the Middlin' Railway, I says, "Brown, I don't 'old with nothink as is middlin' when the best is to be 'ad, and I've 'eard parties speak werry much ag'in that line, and one gentleman wrote a letter, a-sayin' as he'd been pretty nigh shook silly thro' the carriages a-jogglin' about that wiolent, as is werry unpleasant, and brought on tremenjous words, with poor Mrs. Elkinton a-comin' 'ome by the Tilbury line, and a-goin' to take a little drop out of a bottle, as was dashed away wiolent from 'er mouth with a tremen-

jous jerk, as sent all the liquor a-flyin' over 'er next door neighbour's face and shirt front, as proved to be rum, and a total abstainer 'imself, as don't agree well together.

I must say as I got in that train with a misgivin' like, tho' a noble station, and more like Westminster Abbey on a large scale.

I wanted Brown for to insure ag'in accidence, but he don't 'old with it, a-sayin' as you're pretty safe on the rail.

"But" I says to 'im," why not insure, for," I says, " safe bind safe find," as the sayin' is, and I don't see the use of losin' your life when you might insure it for threepence; not as I can ever understand what they means by insurin', for I'm sure old Mr. Filby's life were insured at three offices, and yet he died in a fit for all that, so no doubt Brown is right arter all.

Whatever any one can mean by a-speakin' ag'in that railway as Middlin', I can't make out, for I'm sure we slipped along it like buttered slides, and got to Lester in no time, where we'd friends a-livin' as is a married niece of Brown's mother's, in the public line, as I 'ad never seen; but when she 'eard as we was a-goin' to join the escursion, wrote and made us promise for to come to their place.

She's a werry nice woman tho' serious, in the name of Warein, and no doubt he'd be fust-rate

company, but for bein' that deaf, as makes it 'ard to 'oller everythink at 'im thro' a tube; as were brought on thro' the gas-meter a-goin' off as he were a-superintendin', and no doubt went too near with a candle, as I 'ave know'd a lucifer myself pretty nigh the end of everythink with a leak in the pipe as is werry deceptive under the floor, and quite baffles you, unless you 'ave all the boards up, as is a dreadful job, partikler with the carpet jest put down.

Mrs. Warein she says, as they always went reg'lar every year somewheres with Mr. Cook, as did 'em both good, thro' bein' close confined in the business, as now their son carries on pretty much, tho' the old folks lives on the premises, as is all werry well, thro' the son bein' a widderer with three gals, as the eldest is jest on seventeen, and able to 'elp in the bar.

The Wareins was old friends with the Cooks, tho' different persuasions, thro' Mr. Cook a-'oldin' with tea-total principles; but, as I says, "Whyever should different opinions alter friendships," as the sayin' is, for I'm sure I knows them well as I'm the werry poles in sunder to, as the sayin' is.

We got to Lester two days afore startin' for Scotland, and the werry night afore, Brown got a letter a-sayin' as he must go back to Brummagem, as they calls it, thro' the bustin' of a biler.

I wanted to go along with 'im; but he says, "No! Martha, you go on to Edinbro', as is where I shall overtake you."

I says, "I can't think whatever you can want a-pokin' your nose into bilers and steam-enjins everlastin', as don't bring you in nothink."

He says, "Mrs. Brown, mum," a-lookin' that orseteer like, "you mind your business, and I'll mind mine."

I know'd by 'is way that he warn't in no charfin' 'umour, so I shet up, and as I says, arterwards, to Mrs. Warein, "If there is a thing as Brown's touchy on it's 'is business."

She says, "What is 'is business?"

"Well," I says, "that's more than I can tell you, escept as I knows he's been about them steam-enjins ever since he left the Docks, and there he 'ad to do with a patent steam-crane as carried a party as were a-pamperin' with the 'ook, as ketched in 'is clothes, up seven stories 'igh, and a thing as I never would go near all the years as Brown were at it, for I can't abear the name of no machinery, ever since the time as the biler blowed up in the basement at a sausage-maker's over in Merryker, when we was there, and went up right thro' the 'ouse, as were seven stories 'igh, and fell thro' the roof of the 'ouse oppersite, like a bomb-shell, into the middle of the table, where the family was a-

takin' their tea, leastways their supper, in the front kitchen, as shows the powers of steam, as ain't a thing to be trusted to a young negro boy, as turned it on when he should 'ave let it off; leastways, he always declared as the Irish party upstairs told 'im wrong down the pipe, as ain't the least likely, and that's the reason why I thinks as Brown don't never like to talk to me about 'is business, well knowin' as I'm that anxious as it is, always espectin' to 'ave 'im brought 'ome on a shetter, or all pieces in a basket; with my 'art in my mouth if there's a sudden knock at the door, or anythink unawares 'appens in the street."

I can't say as I relished startin' without Brown, tho' Mrs. Warein was that kind, and as to 'im, he kep' on a-carryin' bundles like a lap-dog all over the place; and thankful I was when we was in the carriages, for I'm always in a fluster a-gettin' off, and can't abear them whistlin's and screamin's as is kep' up constant, no doubt for to keep other trains a-comin' in sudden unawares, the same as they did at New Cross, and drove poor Mrs. Balcomb's 'ead thro' into the other compartment, as 'ad been to Woolwich to see her son off, and owes 'er life to 'er widder's bonnet, as is a covered shape and somethink like a bonnet, not one of them fal-lal things, stuck on the top of your 'ead, as they wears now-a-days as ain't no protection ag'in

nothink, and looks werry bold, partikler in a widder, as don't look 'arf like a widder, with no weeds, and crape not 'arf up to 'er knees, as did used to be up to the waist when I was young, and pre'aps as much overdone then as it's underdone now. Not as it's the weeds as makes the widder; for I'm sure Mrs. Parker, as kep' the "Catherine Wheel," she was a mask of crape and bumbizeen afore paramatter were 'eard on, and married ag'in in three months to a brewer's collector as know'd 'is way about.

I never did 'old with too much mournin', as is a 'eavy espense, and runs into money as is sure to be wanted, jest the same as funerals, as bein' berried in plumes can't make no difference to them as is gone, tho' meant as respect, as certingly a board of feathers is a solemn thing, and so is a pair of mutes at the door, but yet can be done without, in my opinion.

I was glad when we was once fairly under weight, as they calls it, as made the carriages run lighter, and kep' a-pickin' up parties by the way, as was all werry friendly and pleasant, partikler some as come on board at Derby, as is the place as the famous ram come from as 'ad all that wool on 'is back, as must 'ave been a 'eavy load for the poor beast, and glad he must 'ave been when sharin' time come; not as I 'olds with any one bein'

shared too soon, for I see as a farmer 'ad all 'is sheep froze to death thro' a-sharin' of their wool too soon, tho' it was June, as aint winter.

We certingly did 'ave a pleasant journey, and werry nice refreshment, as was mutton pies as they sold by the thousand, at a place called, beginnin with T——— as was werry nice and only tuppence, and a good glass of bottled stout as kep' me up quite fresh to Edinbro', as we got to 'twixt nine and ten.

I never was in a nicer 'otel, never, as were downright elegant, with a tea fit for a queen, as they always 'as in Scotland, thro' never bein' certain as Queen Wictoria won't drop in unawares and take 'em as she finds 'em, as is 'er ways in Scotland.

I never 'ad a nicer bed, and slep' like a pot, as the sayin' is, but wasn't never more took aback than when I went down to go out in the mornin', for if there wasn't wrote up in letters of gold as the introducin' of sperrits into that 'otel were strictly perhibited.

It give me sich a turn, for I felt as tho' I'd been and broke the laws of Scotland like in 'avin' a flask bottle like in my redicule and a little of the werry best packed away besides.

For if there is a thing as I can't abear, it's bad sperrits, as is pison, and is sure to lead to bad 'ealth werry soon for them as gives way to 'em.

What to do I didn't know. I'd a good mind for

to throw myself on the landlord's mussy, for he was a good soul I'm sure by the looks on 'im, and 'is son that perlite to me as if he'd been the Prince of Wales over ag'in, for I was afeared as pre'aps I might get that landlord into trouble and 'ave 'is licence took away for sellin' sperrits.

Mrs. Warein she larfed at me a-sayin' as that notice only meant as parties was not to send out for no sperrits nor nothink like that.

I says "Every one to their way is my principles, but," I says, "as long as parties keeps within moderations I don't see as they shouldn't take what is 'olesome; but I'm sure I don't wonder at some bein' drove to tea-totalers, for it's hawful to think of the wretchedness and misery as that drink brings about, and yet it don't seem fair to cut me off my beer 'cos my neighbour will take too much; but any-'ow, thank goodness, we may all do as we pleases, and if I'd my way I'd be down pretty sharp on them as got drunk and left their families to starve."

Certingly, Edinbro' is a lovely place, all built up a 'ill, as is tirin', with lovely monyments and all manner; partikler one as is put up to a Scott, as were the fust man as found out them parts, I suppose, and give it its name, as is called arter 'im consequentially, and is seated on 'is throne all so grand, but quite 'umble, with no crown nor spectre, as shows he 'adn't no pride.

The Castle is an old ancient place as nobody couldn't take, and I'm werry sure I should never get up to it, not if they'd give it me to live in free gracious for nothink.

But of all the old tumble-down out-of-the-way 'oles as ever I did see, it's the pallis, as they calls 'Ollyrood, not as there was any 'olly about it, nor yet anythink rood neither, for the gentleman as shows it were that perlite as he might be the King of Scotland.

I'm sure any one would think as he were as old as the place itself, to 'ear 'im talk about it, and all them as 'ave lived there, as must 'ave been a dismal 'ole at the best of times.

We met Mrs. Lukin and Maria at Edinbro', leastways fell in with them a-lookin' over that old pallis as I knowed a deal about thro' 'avin' 'eard tell about Mary Queen of Scots, as was the most beautiful woman as ever lived, and made old Queen 'Lizzybeth that savage as she cut off 'er 'ead, tho' only a wisitor, thro' spite, as shows what a jealous temper will do. 'Cos in course it were not 'er fault as she were that beautiful, as I've see a picter on 'er myself; not as she would be called a beauty now-a-days, but then you see it's all fashion, even about good looks, for I remembers the time myself when red 'air was thought a downright disfigurement, and now is all the rage, and parties a-goin' in

for to 'ave their 'air turned red, as is very well when nat'ral, but don't suit everybody.

They do say as Queen Mary be'aved bad to 'er 'usban', as made Queen 'Lizzybeth interfere; but whatever was it to 'er, a-meddlin' old cat, as is always the way with them old maids, as must be a-pryin' into other people's affairs, not but what I've 'eard all manner ag'in that there Queen Bess, as must 'ave been a old wixen, and boxed 'er own father's ears for turnin' his back on 'er, as in course were rude in 'im, but not actin' like a lady on 'er part to raise 'er 'and ag'in a parent as must 'ave been well on in life.

I must say as that bed-room as the queen slep' in was a stuffy 'ole, and no wonder Queen 'Lizzybeth 'ad to be put to bed by force when a-dyin', as Maria said was a judgment, for it's enough to give any one the 'orrors to look at it, partikler if she were timbersome in her last moments, thro' a bad conscience, as is the wust accuser, as the sayin' is.

I'm sure nothink but force would 'ave got me into that bed, as I don't believe ever could 'ave been a comfortable night's rest for any one, queen or no queen.

Maria Lukin, she 'ad a guide-book, as she kep' a-readin' out on, as throwed a deal of light, she said, on them dark ages; but I couldn't listen to 'er, and the party as was a-showin' it, and so,

between the two, got rather confused in my 'ead.

I can't think why they didn't take and build that pallis up on the 'ill, and not down among all that dirt, with sich narrer streets, as must 'ave been werry unhealthy for all the young royal family, with 'ardly a breath of hair to be got.

I suppose as they was obligated for to build it pretty strong ag'in them mobs as did used to break out that wiolent, and once bust into the prison and brought out a prisoner as they wanted for to rescue, and 'anged 'im arter all out of spite, but would 'ave been saved thro' 'is own sweet'art a-walkin' all the way to London for to ask pardon for 'er sister of Queen Caroline, and only got back jest in time as they was a-goin' to draw the bolt on 'er for ever, as isn't standin' now, thro' 'avin' been pulled down years ago, when King George come to Scotland, as couldn't a-bear to see nothink as reminded 'im of Queen Caroline, in course, and wore a kilt, as they calls it, down to 'is knees, a-makin' believe as he were a Scotch-man, and no more right to it than nothink, as were a lusty figger in a wig, and no whiskers, as you may see 'is portrait anywheres, life size, as was 'is pride; not but what I've 'eard them say, as see 'im, as he were a fine man to look at, tho' bad legs, as is the reason of unmentionables bein'

give up, with scars about 'is neck, as brought in them wide neckcloths to 'ide 'em, as is all pride arter all, and it would be as well for 'im if 'e'd nothink else to be ashamed on, nor to 'ide but 'is legs and 'is scars.

I'm partikler fond of history myself, and likes to 'ear about them kings and queens as lived before they was Christshuns, and went on like 'eathens all the world over, and seemed never 'appy but when they was a-fightin' and murderin' one another.

Not as Queen Wictoria would allow such goin's on now

Miss Lukin she kep' a-gettin' on too fast with 'er book, and 'ad to come back ag'in and ag'in, cos she was a-tellin' us all wrong, about Queen Mary a-settin' at supper and 'avin' 'er secretary murdered afore 'er eyes.

Says the gentleman, "This ain't the room where it was done?" leastways he said, "This is no the room," as is 'is Scotch way of speakin'; but, law, there wasn't no stoppin' that Maria with her clack and 'er book, as kep' on a constant sort of a-jabberin', a-talkin' that fast as nobody couldn't make out what she was a-sayin'

Says the gentleman, "Step this way, it's here where he was murdered."

"Oh yes," says she, "in cold blood, as is still wisible thro' a-showin' thro' the floor."

I says, "It's time as any one's blood were cold by this time, if it's all them years ago as he were killed," for the gentleman was a-sayin' as that party come to 'is end sudden on that werry floor just arter supper, through jealousy.

"Ah," I says, "and I've know'd the same 'appen thro' drink, with no jealousy."

But, law, the place looks like murder, and I'm sure I could pity a dog as 'ad to live tied up in that pallis, and as to any Queen a-livin' there, I'm sure she never did it of 'er own accord.

"No," says that gentleman, "she never did, it's all 'er enemies as says so."

"Ah," says I, "it's a pity to make enemies as 'll be sure to 'ave their knife into you, as the sayin' is, some day."

"Yes," says Maria, "and in them days they was always 'avin' their knives into some one, and as to blowin' 'er 'usban' up, I don't believe it."

I says, "Why ever shouldn't she blow 'im up if he deserved it; and I'm sure livin' 'ere would make the best of friends fall out occasional, and it may be a wife's duty to blow a 'usban' up now and then."

"Ah," says a young feller, "but she did it once too often, tho' some do say as it were all through Knox."

"Ah," I says, "if they come to blows I do not

'old with that, for the man, I says, "who would lift 'is 'and——"

"Oh, blow that," says the young feller, a-turnin' on 'is 'eel, as didn't show 'is manners.

I says to the gentleman, "Wasn't this 'ere pallis no better furnished when that queen lived 'ere?"

"Oh yes," says he, "it were, tho' it 'ave been werry much pulled about lately for Queen Wictoria to come and live in."

I says, "Go along with your rubbish. Queen Wictoria, indeed; why, she'd die of the blues 'ere in a week."

"Oh," says a lady, "it was all settled that she was to come, and that's the reason as a good many families as was livin' in the pallis was turned out to make room for 'er."

"Well, then," I says, "they may as well come back ag'in, for depend on it she'll never live 'ere, as looks as if it were 'aunted all over;" and the way as they've let the old church fall to bits, as is next door, and jest the place for ghosts to walk when the clock strikes twelve, not as I'm afraid of ghosts myself, thro' never 'avin' done nobody any 'arm, as they should come back to torment me before my time, not but what many's nothink more than impositions jest the same as the Cock Lane ghost, as my grandmother well remembered jest afore my

dear mother was born, as pretty nigh frightened Dr. Johnson to death when a-settin' up late a-writin' of 'is dixonary.

I don't think as ever I were more tired in my life than goin' about Edinbro', tho' we did ride, and as to me a-goin' up what they calls Arthur's Seat, I says, "It must be in a balloon, then," and you don't catch me at no such games, for I can tell you as my 'ead wouldn't stand no such wagaries, tho' they do say as you don't feel no motion in a balloon, and can't believe as you're a-movin' till you comes down with a bump, as sends you up miles 'igh ag'in.

But as I were a-sayin', I never was so tired as when I got into the train for to go on to Glasgow, where we was to start from along with Mr. Cook reg'lar, and fell that fast asleep as I never know'd nothink more till we was there.

For we'd 'ad a beautiful dinner at that 'otel at Edinbro', and it was that warm that I really did relish the water, tho' obligated to take a little somethink on the quiet afore startin', thro' bein' one of them constitutions as water don't suit, and might 'ave brought on the spavins in the train.

I'd 'ad a letter from Brown, tellin' me to go for'ard and he'd follow arter, as put me out a good deal, for tho' I was along with the Wareins, and 'ad 'eard Mr. Cook that 'igh spoken on, I did not relish a-goin' among them wild Scotch all alone, and yet

I couldn't turn back, 'cos if I did, why I should miss Brown altogether, so in course I 'adn't no choice in the matter.

When we got to Glasgow, I thought as Bedlam 'ad broke loose, for if it wasn't their 'olidays as they calls the Fast, and fast enough some was a-goin' it, with a fair and wild beast shows, a live giant, a fat 'ooman, and a circus, and all manner, all over the place.

I don' think as ever I walked out in such a crowd, as I wouldn't 'ave done, only Maria Lukin, she kep' on a-worretin', that at last I give way, and said as I'd go a little way, for the days keeps out wonderful in Scotland, and tho' nine o'clock, it wasn't dark.

I 'ad'nt 'ardly got out afore I see as it wasn't no place for fieldmales, and says to Maria, let's turn back.

"Oh," she says, "do let's see a little bit of the fun of the fair."

Well, I walked on till the scrougin' got that unpleasant, that I says, "Maria, go back I must, and will."

A old feller as were standin' there says—

"Let the lassie tak' 'er pleasure."

I says, "Pleasure, indeed," I says, "it's pain, that's what it is."

Oh, the way as that old feller went on at me,

callin' me "a sour auld carle," and all sorts of gibberish as I couldn't make out what he meant.

So I says, "Maria, come 'ome this instant."

Says the old chap, "She shall see the fair, come on;" and if he didn't take 'er arm thro' 'is'n.

A lot of young fellers begun a 'ootin', and says, "Let's tak' the auld deil too;" and if they didn't seize 'old on me and drag me along.

Well, they was all smilin' and pleasant, and one on 'em says, "Come away, my leddy," that perlite, as I didn't like to make no disturbance, so went along a little way with them, for peace' sake.

They took me right down to the fair, a-pushin' every one out of the way. I didn't see no perlice nor nothink, so on I went, a-'opin' as they'd soon get tired on me; but, law, their strength was wonderful, and on they kep', till, all of a sudden, we come on some young gentlemen as 'ad been at the 'otel at Edinbro' along with us.

They says, "Mrs. Brown, whatever are you a-doin' 'ere?"

I says, "I'm 'ere ag'in my will. 'Elp!" I says.

"Let the lady alone," says one.

"Let go," say another.

"She's my grandmother," says a third.

"She ain't," I says.

Oh, the row as there was. I was pretty nigh

tore to bits, with my bonnet smashed and one shoe gone, till a perliceman come up and got me away from two fellers as was fightin' for me.

As soon as I got my breath I told the perlice what 'ad appened, as said it was all a joke, but I'd better get 'ome, and as I didn't know the way, he showed me; but I says, "Wherever is Maria?"

He says, "I don't know. No doubt she got home," as he called "hame."

I never shall forget Mrs. Lukin's screams when she see me come in all tatters and no Maria, as 'adn't turned up.

She says, "You're a wile, wicked 'ooman, to take and 'tice a young gal out and then leave 'er."

I says, "I never 'ticed 'er, it was 'er as 'ticed me, and 'ave nearly lost my life over it."

Well, jest then in come Maria, and I do believe if I 'adn't been dead beat I should 'ave struck 'er; for if she didn't say as I'd give them young men encouragements, and the young man as 'ad been one of them as met us and 'ad brought Maria 'ome, said,

"Well, Mrs. Brown, you certingly did seem to be makin' yourself quite at 'ome, a-walkin' thro' the fair that jolly with them rowdies," and the landlord as was in the room told me that no decent

fieldmale ever went near the fair, and give me quite a lecture about my behaviour in Scotland.

I could 'ave cried with wexation, only was a-dyin' for a cup of tea, and don't think as I could 'ave started the next day, only Mrs. Warein she set to work and mended up my bonnet and tidied me up afore goin' to bed; but as to that Maria Lukin, she's a deceitful 'ussey, and I'll take precious good care as I don't notice 'er no more, nor yet be led into no scrapes by her, a double-faced wiper.

I was dreadful put out, not a-knowin' what Mr. Cook might think on me, partikler as the landlord said to me as we was a-startin' that I ought to be circumspect, and that "I was no a lassie."

I was glad to get aboard the steamer, as was that crowded as you couldn't 'ardly draw your breath, let alone the river, as must 'ave been a mask of petrifaction by the ojours as it kep' a-throwin' up.

I see a lot of people a-'oldin' their noses, as is all werry well; but you can't keep it up without a-suffocatin', and whatever it is makes it that offensive I can't make out, tho' a gentleman as were Scotch did tell me all about it. But, law bless you, what with 'is talk and the espressions as he used, I couldn't make 'ead nor tail on it, except so far as he said it were gas.

"Well," I says, "if they lets the gas escape like that it's awful waste, and will find theirselves in darkness, let alone such a smell, as is enough to pison their blood, partikler on a empty stomick." For I began to feel all-overish myself, and should not 'ave knowed what to 'ave took, only Mr. Warein, like a good soul, brought me a tumbler, as I thought were milk, as is a thing I cannot take; but he says, "It ain't milk alone." Nor more it wasn't; but jest a dash of the mounting jew throwed in as took off the richness, and, I do believe, saved me from a sick bed.

It was werry pleasant a-sailin' along that river, all but for the crowds, as was all out for a holiday thro' its bein' holiday time, and as far as I could make out somethink to do with their religion, as is of the Kirk persuasion, leastways, so Mrs. Warein was a-tellin' me, as 'olds with the Baptists 'erself.

"Ah," I says, "I likes to see any one as is cheerful over their religion," and that's what the Scotch is.

A young feller as were a-settin' by bursts out a-larfin', and says "That's a good un."

I says, "Young man, I were not addressin' of myself to you, and do not require none of your laughture, as is out of place, in my werry face."

I must say as that young man were that perlite

as to 'polergise on the spot, and offered for to put down my tumbler for me, as 'ad 'eld the milk.

We was a-talkin' werry ehatty, me and Mrs. Warein, when Warein came and give us warnin' to come down to breakfast with the fust bell, as we did accordin', and a lovely breakfast we got.

There was everythink as the 'art could wish, from mutton-chops to marmalade, let alone 'errin's, and trouts, and jams, and 'ams, and heggs, and toasts, and rolls, and butter, and salmon, and steaks.

"I never did," I says, "it's well as one's eyes is bigger than one's stomick, as the sayin' is, for I'm sure it would be my death to eat 'arf or a quarter of what I sees 'ere."

There was good strong tea, and the best dry toast as ever I see, not as it's a thing as I cares much about, tho' delicious butter to get it down with.

I don't think as ever I did see sich a breakfast, and I'm sure I never eat sich a one, not as ever I'll believe as that fish were caught out of that water as we'd been a-comin thro', as were strong enough to pison a whale, if he was fool enough to drink it, as no doubt 'is nat'ral instincs would warn 'im ag'in doin', tho' I 'ave 'eard say as a cow will take and pison 'erself on laurel leaves, and a pig bust 'isself

in a clover field, but they ain't fish, as no doubt makes a differenee.

When breakfast was over, I got a werry pleasant seat on the deck, and never did see sich fine strawberries as Mr. Warein bought, not as fruit is a thing as I eares for, escept it is in the mornin' when it eats eool, and 'ave 'eard speak of a old lady as always began the day with 'arf-a-pint of currants, and lived over a 'undred, and wouldn't 'ave died then, only they eut off her currants sudden, as give 'er eonstitution that shock as she never rallied from.

I was a-gettin' on famous, but thro' the sun bein' that blistery upon my baek, thought I'd jest change my plaee, and thro' seein' of one of them camp-stools waeant on the other side, I goes and sets myself on it.

Presently I see a old thing in a black chip 'at, with a yeller face and red nose, and long blaek ringlets, eome up and look at me 'ard; then there come up another in a black 'at, as looked like a pair of nut-crackers in the faee, and a werry fat man as was in blaek alpaea, and a white 'at.

They all looked at me, and one of them old winegar eruets says, "It's of no use askin' 'er to give it up, she's that disgraeeful old creature as created a riot in the fair last night."

I didn't make no remark, but turns the stool away from them and looks at the view, as were werry nice, and 'eard the other say, "She's a nice speciment of a tea-totaler."

Well, I couldn't stand that, so I turns on 'er sudden and says—

I says, "It's not your low, wulgar abuse behind my back as I minds, but never shall it be said as Martha Brown was aboard a steamer sailin' under false colours, for I am no tea-totaler, and never were, tho' I respects them as is give to no fomented liquors conscientious, as the sayin' is, but don't 'old with them as makes a mask on it, as a red nose will always let the cat out of the bag."

Says one of them two, "Oh, you foul-mouthed, abusive, low-lived fieldmale, to dare to insinivate as my sister's nose is thro' drink."

I says, "I didn't mean to lay 'old of your sister's nose in partikler, but," I says, "if the cap fits, let 'er wear it, in welcome."

Well, we was jest a-comin' to a landin' place, and a party took and throwed a rope ashore, as I ducked for to awoid gettin' a back'ander with it, and in so doin', forgot as I were on a camp stool, as tipped over, and I was a-goin' back'ards, so in course clutched 'old of the fust thing nigh to me, as were that 'ooman; but, law, there wasn't no support in 'er, for I pulled all 'er gethers out, and

over I went, a-draggin' 'er and the other in the black 'at with me; and there we was, all of a 'eap on the deck, with parties all a-grinnin', and no one a-tryin to pick us up.

I thought as I'd fell werry soft, and felt a somethink strugglin' under me, and when I did get up, if I 'adn't gone splosh on to the fat man in the black alpaca, as said he'd been used to helephants all 'is life, thro' bein' a missionary, as didn't bear malice, but never 'ad no idea of their weights till now.

As he meant, no doubt, for sneers at me, but I scorned to notice 'im, and was werry much surprised at them Scotch a-larfin' so 'arty, as I'd always 'eard tell as they was brought up serous.

In course I didn't go to tear that party's gethers out, nor yet to squash that missionary, as I told 'er, but she was that short and nasty as I wouldn't ask Mrs. Warein for to set 'er to rights, as would 'ave done it willin', with a needle and thread always 'andy, thro' carryin' a 'ussif with 'er, as is a thing I never did since the time as the darnin' needles broke loose in my pocket, and I set down on a row of pins, as I'd put in with the pints uppermost.

As 'ave 'ad narrer escapes that way, for another time the cork come off the end of the scissors, as I always 'ad about me, and was werry painful; so altogether I says, "No edge tools for me, as is safest when in your work-box, in my opinion, where they

can't wound nobody's feelin's, a-settin' down in a 'urry.

Them fieldmale parties made theirselves werry unpleasant all the arternoon, escept the missionary, as was werry agreeable, tho' the sun were that powerful on the back, and it was tedious work a-pickin' our way like, as we 'ad to go thro' them locks one by one, as is a 'eavy weight, and that narrer, as some parties got out and walked along the side, not as I cared for to do it, thro' bein' afraid as I might be left behind, and not 'arf a-fancyin' them boys as was a-runnin' along without no trousers on, as parties kep' a-shyin' coppers to, as encourages them in idleness, in my opinion, as did all ought to 'ave been at school, or at work, but wastes all their time a-runnin' arter them steamers, for all the world like them other gulls as will fly for miles for to pick up biscuit, as is all werry well in birds, but I do not 'old with boys bein' kep' idle like that, tho' certingly they looked 'ealthy and must 'ave 'ad the wind of a steam-enjin' to keep up as they did with their bare feet, and didn't seem for to fight nor nothink for the 'apence, but took it all in good part.

If I'd been ashore I couldn't 'ave kep' up with them 'ardly the length of my nose, not for all the coppers in this world as they could shy me.

Some werry nice young gals come and sold milk to them as fancied it, with bare feet, but remarkable tidy for all that.

I set a-watchin' all their goin's on thro' always a-likin' for to see furriners ways as is single, and some on 'em without trousers tho' growed up.

I'd plenty of time for to watch 'em and see a good deal on 'em thro' them locks bein' werry close to the shore, so as you could see them natives werry plain as is quite tame, tho' they looks wild and talked sing'ler.

I got to know 'em quite well and their 'abits, for we 'ad to get thro' a-many locks, as is the Scotch for lakes, as they're obligated for to make for to stop the water a-runnin' down 'ill too wiolent, as in course would leave the country as dry as a bone, so they locks it all in for fear it should run to waste.

Jest the same as that gal of ourn left the tap turned with the water a-comin' in, when we lived at 'Oxton, and every drop run away, as flooded the airey and the back kitchen, and 'ad to borrow six pailfuls of the neighbours, and a-goin' to wash the next day, as they durst not lend it us for fear of the New River bein' down on 'em, as is werry strict in their rates, as well they may be, 'avin' to bring it all the way from goodness knows where, as is the deep sea, in course to get it pure, as it cannot be with all them gasworks, and all manner a-flowin

into it as kills the fish, and even dogs as 'ave drunk it may be seen a-floatin' dead that swelled, as is always the way with pison.

Not as that is so bad as the time as Jane Adley come to stop with me, and I trusted 'er with the key of the beer, for to draw a little extra, thro' Brown bein' come in late and that thirsty.

I says, "Jane, whatever you do, mind you turns it well off, that's a dear," for it was Allsop's best, as Brown 'ad fancied for summer drinkin'.

I never give the beer a thought no more, as was kep' jest inside the cellar door till the next day, in makin' of a weal and 'am pie, as Brown is partial to cold with a bit of salad. And I says to the gal, "'ave you been a-cleanin' the stove with beer," not as I thought she 'ad thro' bein' one as never cleaned anythink.

She says, "No."

"Well, then," I says, "you've been and 'ung up the jug beery, as you didn't wash out last night arter supper."

She says, "I did," rather sharp, and down she takes it, and sure enough it was as clean as a whistle, as the sayin' is.

I says, "Where can the smell of beer come from," and jest then my 'art misgive me, and I goes to the cellar, and if it wasn't a reg'lar beery pool, as that dratted Jane Adley 'ad left a-drippin'

all night, and gone off with the key in 'er pocket, so there was no stoppin' it till I sent for a new tap, as the gal would put in a-sayin' she knowed all about it thro' 'avin' lived in a public-'ouse, and let it all come out with a gush, as 'arf drownded me a-'oldin' the candle, and every drop wasted, as was fifteen shillin's the nine gallons, and only tapped for dinner the day before.

So in course I set a-watchin' them a-workin' them steamers thro' them locks, a-understandin' all about it, not as I could make out why them small locks should 'ave gates, and the big ones none at all, as was surrounded not only with 'ills but mountings all round.

I don't wonder at Queen Wictoria a-'avin' of 'er 'art in the 'ighlands, for I'm sure the livin' is downright wonderful, as is fish and soup, and jintes and pastry at every meal, and plenty of werry nice ale, as is wonderful aboard a steamer, tho' I did 'ear a stout party as was a-settin' near me complain as he'd paid 'arf-a-crown for a little bottle of that there red French wine, as I considers no better than winegar myself.

So I says, "'Owever can you espect French wines for to grow in Scotland."

"Oh," says he, "I can buy it for a shillin' the litter in Glasgow."

"Oh," I says, "that litter is no doubt rubbish,

as they gives the pigs," as put 'im out, for he turned to be a grocer as dealt in it, and were quite 'uffy, till he got a drop of whiskey and water, as seemed to settle him down a bit.

We was a good big party a-goin' along with Mr. Cook, as were like a father to every one.

I'm sure the patience he must 'ave to answer all the questions, as Jove 'imself would lose 'is temper over.

I'd 'ad a bit of a nap arter dinner, and come upon deck ag'in quite fresh, and was a-lookin' at the mountings, when I 'eard a young man say, as we was a-goin' to Obun.

I says, "You don't mean 'Igh Obun."

"Oh yes," he says, "it's 'igh enough."

But I says, "Do you mean to say as we're a-goin' all the way by sea."

"Yes," he says.

"Why," I says, "it will take us weeks to get there."

"No," he says, "we shall be there to-night."

I says, "Go along with you, a-stuffin' any one up like that," for I see as he was one of them Scotch as is always up to their larks, thro' bein' a light-'arted lot.

I says, "I knows 'Igh Obun, as is miles away, and a aunt of Brown's did once used to live opper-

site the George and Blue Boar, in the cork-cuttin' line.

So a-seein' Mr. Cook, I jest asked 'im if we should be at Obun to sleep, as told me we should, as reg'lar shet me up; but, law, when Mrs. Warein come to talk to me, I found it was the Scotch Obun, not the London Obun as we was a-goin' to, as makes all the difference, tho' both as got 'ills, tho' I've 'eard say as they're a-levellin' Obun 'Ill with a wire duck, as is easy done thro' bein' somethink to do with the telegrapht, no doubt; for if they can carry it all the way over to Merryker on a wire, why in course they can over Obun 'Ill, as is no great 'ight, but a dreadful drag for the 'osses, as did used to drop dead with a-pullin' them busses, as was loaded to the brim, as the sayin' is.

I never was more took aback when we got to Obun, as is no more like the London Obun than nothink, but reg'lar sea-side, and smelt fishy, for all the world like Margate at low water.

We got to a werry nice 'otel, a-lookin' over the sea, with tea all ready and everythink delicious, leastways as much as any one could want, partikler salmon and fresh 'errin's, as is relishin' with tea.

I must say as I was that beat as made me long for a good night's rest, so went early to my lodgin's as they'd got for me, thro' there bein' no bed in the 'otel, except a double bed, with Maria Lukin,

as I would not stand, so said as I'd rather lodge out.

As were a respectable 'ouse a-facin' the sea, and that clean as you might 'ave eat off the boards, as the sayin' is, and a werry nice middle-aged party as were the landlady.

It was a lovely evenin', with the sun a-lookin' as if he never meant to set, as is 'is 'abits to do late in Scotland thro' bein' near the north pole, as is what he turns round upon for to make night and day, but a-feelin' 'eavy like I went to bed.

It kep' on bein' that broad daylight as go to sleep I could not, partikler thro' lovely music on the water as kep' a-floatin' like fairies with lights all 'angin' round 'em as sounded lovely, with the winder open for the 'eat, and sleep were drove out of my 'ead.

So up I gets and puts on my disshybill, as is a printed flannin and a silk 'anker round my night-cap, for to protect the 'ead, as am subject to a cold even in summer.

I stood at the winder ever so long, a-listenin' to that music, like any one in a trance, as the sayin' is, and was jest a-feelin' drowsy, when I 'eard a shriek as seemed like any one in flames; so out of the room I rushes on to the landin', and 'ears it ag'in a-comin' from a room oppersite, as I see the door were a little bit a-jar, and a bright flame.

There was a large can of water a-standin' in the corner as I ketched up, and runs into the room and see a party a-kickin' about on the bed, as I thought were a-tryin' to put 'erself out. So without more ado, I sends that can of water souse all over 'er, and in a instant felt myself seized and pitched out of the room with that wiolence as sent me a-staggerin' ag'in a party as 'ad jest come in with a 'eavy pork-mangle on 'is 'ead, as I dropped ag'in and sent 'im a-thunderin' down flop, with me arter 'im; and pitched ag'in a door as busted in with me, and there I rolled into a room where a large party was at supper, and wished as the hearth would open and swallow me, but it wouldn't.

I was that stunned like, as speak I couldn't, tho' I 'eard some say as I were mad, and others in liquor, while they rang the bell like mad, and they says to the people of the 'ouse, "Clear away that old bundle of rags."

Flesh and blood couldn't stand that; so I bounces up and says it was a mere accident, and if you 'eard the shouts of larfter as they give way to when they got a full view on me, and certingly I could not 'elp a-larfin', ketchin' sight of myself in a glass, with my nightcap off and no 'air on, for I was a awful figger.

Jest then the landlady come and led me away, a-sayin', "You'd better go to bed," and if she

didn't take and push me into my room, and went out and locked the door arter 'er.

I 'ollers out, "You leave that door unlocked, or I'll raise the parish;" but she didn't pay no attentions.

So I 'ammered away with a 'air-brush at that door till some one come and said if I didn't be quiet they'd send me to the cage.

I says, "Fetch Mr. Cook, as knows as I'm respectable."

They says, "We shan't; you be quiet, or we'll 'ave the constable."

I says, "Don't lock me in."

They says, "You ain't safe, you walks in your sleep."

I says, "I don't, and never did, but once in my life, when a-sickenin' for the measles."

On I kep' a-'ammerin', and took to ringin' the bell, till at last the door was unlocked, and a old 'ooman come in as says, "Are ye clean daft? raisin' sic a like din in a decent house."

I says, "Not a-speakin' of your langwidge, mum, I cannot explain. But," I says, "I'll leave the 'ouse."

She says, "Ye'll nae be ganging awa' the nicht."

I says, "Let me go;" and I would 'ave went, only that good soul, Mr. Cook, 'ad come out of 'is

bed, as esplained all the matter as were a mistake, all through me a-thinkin' them screams as I 'eard were fire, whereas it were only a bad tooth as the young 'ooman of the 'ouse 'ad been 'owlin' mad with for three nights, as sent for the dentist, as were the locksmith, and all in a fluster thro' bein' a young beginner, jest a-goin' to bed 'isself, and took out two at a wrench in 'is flurry, and what I took for fire was the settin' sun, as were a-goin' down round the corner that angry as looked like a change, I should say; but I never was more put out, and felt that lonely, without a soul to speak to, for the Wareins was next door in the 'otel, and she were gone to bed with a sick 'eadache, and if he'd been up I couldn't 'ave made 'im 'ear escept thro' a speakin'-trumpet, as ain't a thing for to tell your sorrors thro' to nobody partikler, not a-wantin' to let everyone know about it. So I went to bed, but kep' on a-dreamin' about fire and murder, and walkin' in my sleep, as I was quite terrified for fear as I might do, and walk out to sea, or over a pressypitch, or anythink like that, as might end fatal, the same as the young 'ooman in 'Ounsditch as throwed 'erself out of the cockloft, and was drowned in the gutter.

I don't think as a finer mornin' could 'ave shone out of the 'eavens, as the sayin' is, than when we started off by the steamer for to wisit them

islands, as isn't the same as the 'illy islands, but them as is out to sea. But a lovely mornin' it were, and everybody that cheerful, all but Mr. Warein, as 'ad been and left 'is speakin'-trumpet, as he hears thro' in the bed, as in course reg'lar shet 'im up from seein' everythink, but not a bit sulky over it, and took 'is breakfast like a lamb, as well he might, for I'm sure no pet lamb was never fed like it in this world.

Tho', talkin' of that, I never see a animal more petted than one as Mrs. Brummel, as kep' the "White 'Art," near Acton, brought up by 'and through a black teapot, as walked about quite tame with a blue ribbin round 'is neck, as proud as a Christshun, and knowed Mrs. Brummel's cap miles off when growed up and turned into the fields, and would come gallopin' up to 'er, as if she'd been his nat'ral mother, as in course 'owever should he know the difference? poor innocency!

Not as they're all that, for I've knowed 'em werry wicious even in Scotland; for one day, jest a-walkin' quiet, a old ram gave a drive at me with 'is 'orned 'ead, as sent me a-flyin' over into a lot of thistles; tho' I must say as it were my own fault a-goin' near 'im, with two young lambs a-feedin' by 'is side, as in course he'd nat'rally protect, thro' bein' 'is own flesh and blood, tho' only mutton arter all.

They do say as we was out at sea, part of the way to them islands, as they said was the same sea as you crosses in goin' to Merryker; but all as I can say is it wasn't a bit like it, and as calm as a milkpond, as the sayin' is, tho' we see whales a-flyin' about, as shows a storm.

It was a brilin' 'ot mornin', and arter breakfast I went to the ladies cabin and set there quiet on a sofy, for I was that sleepy, thro' a broken night's rest, as I felt I must 'ave a nap if I was to die for it; but jest as I were a-dozin' off a lady came down and says "We're jest there."

I says, "Oh, indeed!" not a-knowin' esactly what she did mean.

"Yes," she says, "and the boats is ready to take us ashore."

I jumps up, not a-wishin' to be left behind, and 'urries on to the deck, and there sure enough was two boats a-waitin', and parties a-gettin' into 'em.

So I waits till everyone 'ad got aboard, and then goes to the side of the wessel; but, law bless you, the boat was brim full a'ready.

They all began to say as they'd make room for me.

I says, "No, thank you," a well knowin' as if that boat were not trimmed proper, as the sayin' is, she might go over in a jiffey

So I says, "I'll wait," and turns away, and off

they pushes; up come another boat alongside, with a old man and a boy, and one of them officers aboard the steamer says to me, "This is a bit of luck, as don't 'appen often, as there's a extra boat, so you can go arter all, as is a wonder of the world," and afore I 'ardly knowed where I were I was in that boat and off to the shore, as weren't far off, and I see were all rocks as looked dangerous; but it wasn't no use a-sayin' nothink to that man in the boat, as were a-talkin' wild-like to that boy in what they calls Garlic, leastways so a lady told me was their langwidge aboard the steamer, and I says to 'er, "Well, I only knows it by the smell, as is too much of a good thing for me;" as made 'er larf and say, "I was such a one to go on."

I never did see sich a place as they landed me on, as were all rocks, as looked shivered-like; but I see as there were a flight of wooden steps a little 'igher up, as I scrambles up to the foot on, when I 'eard some one 'oller out to me, and turnin' round, see a gent down below, as were of our party, as told me as I must come down ag'in, and keep to the right.

I says, "All right; you go on, I'll foller," not a-wantin' 'im to wait below for me a-comin' down them rocks, as is steep and werry much broke away.

So on he walks, bein' quite the gentleman, and I follers; but of all the walkin' as ever I did know

it beat it 'oller, and I don't believe as any 'uman bein', escept pre'aps a goat or a cat, as is sure-footed by natur, could 'ave walked a inch, tho' I 'ave 'eard as a helephant wont never go where it won't bear 'im, and I only wished as I'd been born a helephant.

The 'eat were awful, and I 'adn't even brought my umbreller, as would 'ave sheltered me, and 'ave been a support into the bargin, and on I went 'urryin' a bit, for them others was all disappeared.

I never was in such a fix, for climbin' and scramblin' don't suit me, thro' 'avin' 'ad the cartridge of my knee went off in the winter, so can't use both limbs that free as I did used to, was obligated to take to all fours.

I could jest see the way as them others was a-goin', and kep' on follerin' with the sun a-brilin' me between the blade-bones, and pretty nigh dead with the exertion, and if I 'adn't forgot my redicule, and so 'adn't even a smellin'-bottle with me in case I should turn faint.

'Ow ever I got along I don't know, but at last I come up to an old gent as was a-settin' on the rocks, and 'ad took 'is wig off for to wipe 'is 'ead, and down I sets too.

He says to me, "Ah, mum, you did ought to do as I've done."

I says, "What's that?" a 'opin it was a drain

out of 'is flask bottle, but turned out a total abstainer.

He says, "Bant."

So I says, "No, thank you, none of your tricks with the 'uman form for me, as comes of a corpilent family, so must espect it."

"Well," he says, "I could tell you what would make you a weazle in no time."

I says, "I don't want to be no weazle, as goes pop sometimes, tho' thin."

"Well," he says, "if you do as I tells you your figger 'd be a fairy all over."

I says, "I don't want to be a fairy, as wouldn't suit my time of life, and wouldn't be common decent, leastways, not as I've seed fairies dressed in picters."

"Well," he says, "if you'll set to and swaller your fastin' spittle reg'lar every arternoon about four o'clock, you'll 'ave a waist like a wasp in three months."

I says, "And where am I to get fastin' spittle to swaller at four o'clock in the arternoon?"

"Ah!" he says, "that's your business."

"Yes," I says, "and would soon settle my business pretty quick, or anyone's else's, as fasted till four o'clock."

Jest then I 'eard sounds as was werry mournful singin', and seemed to come out of the rocks, so I

gets up and clambers a bit further, and comes to where there was a cave like, with the sea a-runnin' into it.

"Come on," says a party as soon as he see me, "you're jest in time for the Natural Anthum," and he 'olds out 'is 'and and 'elps me down them rocks, till we come to a part where there was a rope for to 'old by whilst you got into that 'ere cave, as they said belonged to a party in the name of Fingull.

I says, "He don't live 'ere, I 'ope, as is a lonesome spot, and must be damp in winter, I should say"

Jest as I was a-talkin' one of them parties says to me, "Jump across," but afore I could move, up come a wave slap, and reg'lar drenched me over my knees.

I says, "Bother your caves, and Mr. Fingull too, a-'avin' the place in such a disgraceful state, and a-chargin' people for to see it, as I know'd was a pound by the steamer there and back." I says, "I don't want to see no more of 'im nor 'is cave neither, but will go back to the steamer at once," and up the rocks I scrambles ag'in reg'lar drippin'

It's all werry well to say as sea-water don't give you cold, but it ain't by no means pleasant to 'ave your boots full on it, and every step you takes a squash.

So findin' as I couldn't get on I clombe up ever

so 'igh on them rocks out of sight, where I see a shady spot for to take off my boots and stockin's, so as to dry 'em in the sun, and 'ad reg'lar to wring the tail of my gownd out.

I don't think as ever I know'd what tiredness was, as no doubt were owin' to the open air, and I reg'lar sunk down 'elpless, and must 'ave gone off dead asleep in a instant.

'Ow long I slep' goodness knows, but when I did wake up, I found as the sun 'ad gone in, and the weather 'ad changed a good deal to cloudy. I looks round for the steamer as were not visible nowheres, and I thought 'ad pre'aps jest gone round the corner, so I struggles on my stockin's and boots, and down the rocks I goes, more settin' and slidin' than walkin', for they was that steep I couldn't keep my feet, and tore my dress dreadful, and when I got to the bottom there wasn't no boat nor nothink, nor nobody to be seen nowheres.

Oh, it give me sich a turn. I says, "Goodness gracious, if I should turn out to be a reg'lar Robinson Cruiser on a undiscovered island," with no 'uman 'abitation nor nothink but some steps and a flagstaff, as looked to me like the end of the world for loneliness. What to do I didn't know; it wasn't no use a-'ollerin', and I 'adn't my umbreller to tie my 'ankercher to, for to make no signals of distress with, as is what is done at sea.

I says, "It serves you right, Martha Brown, for a-leavin' a good 'ome and a kind 'usban' for any escursions as ever were born or thought on;" but I says, "it's a awful end for to be left to die solingtary, and 'ow Mr. Cook could 'ave the 'art to do it; as shall no doubt be dewoured by sea gulls," as 'ad scented me out, and was all screamin' round me.

I was thinkin' 'ow I could support life longest, as there wasn't no 'ope of ketchin' no fish, and couldn't eat it raw if I did.

I 'ave 'eard speak of a party as were shipwrecked and lived three weeks on 'is flannin waistcoat, but then he was French, as is such wonderful cooks, as can make a dinner out of a old shoe, I've 'eard say, and send up leather breeches stewed that delicate as nobody couldn't tell it from tripe.

I was a-thinkin' whatever would become on me, and 'ad got up on the 'igh ground ag'in as nearly twisted both my ancles, and tore my gownd to ribbins, and was a-lookin' out, when I see a boat and two creeturs in it.

I wasn't sure as they mightn't be natives, and pre'aps not to be trusted, but life is sweet, so I takes off my bonnet and waives it about, and 'ollers like mad.

It was ever so long afore they see me, as they did at last, and rowed to the place where I'd fust

landed, and if it wasn't the same old man and boy as 'ad brought me from the steamer.

I says, "My good soul, wherever is Mr. Cook and the steamer, and every one gone to?"

He spoke werry sing'ler with a grin like, and said as they was "A-war."

I says, "War or no war, take me to 'em."

He said, as far as I could make out, "As they was all gone."

"What!" I says, "and left me behind on this dissolute spot, as ain't fit for no one but sea-'orses, and sich like to live on?"

He did not say much, but pulls me into the boat more dead than alive.

I says, "Wherever will you take me to?"

He pints over somewheres, and pulls away, and then arter a bit it begun to rain like mad, and then they put up a sail, and on we went ever so long drippin' wet, till at last I see some smoke a-comin' up, as showed us 'uman bein's was nigh, and wasn't I glad for to see that boat when pushed ashore, and out they 'elped me. It was a wild sort of a lookin' place, with a lot of 'arf-naked children, as come and offered me pebbles and asked for pennies, as is all as they can say, as shows 'ow clever the Scotch is.

It was a inhabited place, with a few cottages, and one on 'em a 'otel as were wonderful comfortable and tidy considerin'

It's lucky as I'd got money, for I 'ad to pay for that boat, not as it would 'ave mattered, for when I told 'em as I were one of Mr. Cook's friends, they was quite glad to see me, and the old lady at the 'otel made me a cup of tea, with a 'errin', and got me to bed, as was all werry well, but thro' bein' one of them as shets up like a cupboard was rather stifley, and me that low sperrited, as sleep I could not for ever so long.

When I did get to sleep, I dreamnt as I were Robinson Cruiser, a-tryin' to swarm up that flag-staff and fallin' over rocks into the sea.

I was that stiff and chilly the next day as the old lady made me stop in bed, and give me a drop of werry nice broth, and there I stopped till evenin', for they'd made my mind at ease about where I was, a-sayin' as the steamer would come ag'in on Monday, as the name on it were Iowner, as is a unin-'abited island all but a werry few, tho' once a grand place, as is aperient by the churches, as tho' now in ruins, must 'ave been a large parish.

They told me as it was where the old Scotch kings did used to come to be berried in peace, as is a nice quiet spot for the purpose, but no doubt too full at last, the same as Stepney Churchyard, so 'ad to be took to the simmyterries.

I must say as it's disgraceful the way as that church wants repairs, and quite as bad as them

Gypshun temples up the Nile, not as the Scotch ever uses it now, thro' bein' a different persuasion, and not 'avin' no more kings to berry, as is pre'aps as well, for they was werry much given to murderin' 'em, as wasn't pleasant for them kings.

I don't know as Mr. Cook come from them parts, but every one seemed to look up to 'im werry much, and said as he'd been werry kind in 'elpin' the poor people for to get fishin'-boats, as is what they lives on; but there can't be much made out of it, for I don't see who is to buy the fish escept what they salts, as is a thing as a little on goes a great way with me, thro' a-creatin' that dreadful thust, as is, I suppose, the fish a-cravin' for its native water.

It was werry interestin' a-goin' to look over them ruins as I did on Monday, tho' far from comfortable thro' not 'avin' no change of clothes.

It's sin'gler 'owever them monks as built the church should 'ave come to sich a out-of-the-way place, as don't seem to lead to nowhere, and as to where they come from, nobody don't seem to know.

It was all werry well a-lookin' at that old ancient place, but I wasn't sorry when I 'eard 'em say as the steamer were a-comin' and glad I was to get aboard it.

The capting he told me as it wasn't never found out as I were a-missin' till they got back to Obun,

thro' a-thinkin' I was 'avin' a nap, and as Mr. Cook were pretty nigh besides 'isself, as I'm sure he would be thro' bein' a feelin' 'art, but he'd made it all square for me aboard that steamer, as I stopped in the ladies cabin ontil we got back to Obun, for I was not fit to be seen, till I'd got to my luggage, so as to tidy myself up a bit.

I found a note at Obun from Mr. Cook, a-sayin' as he couldn't wait, but 'oped to see me in Edinbro', and there was a letter from Brown as said he was a-goin' on to Inverness. So there wasn't nothink for it but for me to get a good night's rest in Obun, and get on next day to Inverness as best I could, for I quite longed to see Brown again.

I were not sorry for to get away from Obun tho' a sweet spot, for I felt lonesome like tho' there was plenty aboard that steamer, as all 'ad come to take towers in the 'ighlands, as there is certingly plenty on all about tho' mostly ruins, as them Scotch seems to 'ave took a pleasure in burnin' one another out of 'ouse and 'ome, as ain't a neighbourly action in my opinion, tho' preaps not done on purpose.

I was a-enjoyin' myself werry much aboard the steamer, as know'd Mr. Cook werry well, and treated me quite like the lady.

The capting he says to me, "Ye'll be gangin' thro' the glen?"

I says, "In course," not a-knowin' what he meant, and didn't say no more till the steamer stopped, and every one went ashore.

I says, "Whatever is up?"

They says, "We're a-goin' to see the Massacree of Glencoe."

I says, "Then I'll stop 'ere, as I don't want to see sich a sight, as I've 'eard say as sometimes they drives them poor deers into a corner and slaughters 'em."

"Oh," says a young gent, "it took place many years ago," and went on to tell me 'ow William the Conqueror 'ad 'ad thousands killed in their beds on that werry spot, as 'ad received 'im friendly in the middle of the night, down to the babby in arms.

"Then," I says, "he was a cold-blooded willin, and deserved 'angin' "

"Oh," says a gentleman, "he was our Dutch deliverer."

I said, "Was he, indeed?"

"Then all as I've got to say is, as I'm glad I didn't 'ave none of 'is deliverances, a butcher as deserved 'angin' quite as much as the feller as committed the Mars murder, with the baby in the cradle."

"Ah," says a gentleman, "one murder makes a felon, but ten thousand a Nero."

"Ah," I says, "I've 'eard tell of 'im as was a

nice blackguard, as I see the picter on 'im myself in the Great Exhibition, in a white cloak, and flowers in 'is 'air, a-walkin' over the dead bodies, a-chucklin' as he'd 'ad murdered, jest for lark, a blood thirsty wretch," not as ever I 'eard as he were Dutch afore.

I'd 'arf a mind not to go and see that place, but as they was all a-goin' I didn't like bein' left behind.

They got me up on a werry nice back seat of a coach, with a ladder, so as to see the view; and a werry pleasant drive we 'ad thro' a large slate place, as is what all the rocks is made on all round, and precious black they looks, tho' lovely flowers, partikler roses, in full bloom.

I must say as that Glencoe looks like a place for a murder, jest as if a cuss 'ung over it, as I'm sure did ought over them as ordered that massacree as two gentlemen got a-arguin' about, one of 'em a-sayin' as it were all a mistake, and as the king signed the order without knowin' what it were, thro' bein' a Dutchman.

Then I says, "He did ought to 'ave 'ad 'is 'ead chopped off on the spot, for doin' such a thing as might be the end of the world pretty soon if things was to go on like that," not as I believes as any body as can read, even the Dutch, ever signs anythink unbeknown, unless in liquor, as most likely

that king were, for we all knows as the Dutch is topers to drink, and might 'ave been 'ocussed just the same as poor old Mrs. Huskisson, as 'ad 'er bottled porter drugged at supper by 'er two sons-in-law, and signed away the brew'ouse and 'arf the business, unbeknown for them to run thro' with horse-racin' in six months, and brought to the Aged Pilgrims, where she died of the dropsy afore the year was out, as broke 'er 'art, thro' never 'avin' knowed want, as comes 'ard upon you in the evenin' of your days, as the sayin' is.

I always 'ad a misgivin' about that ere Glencoe, and I'm sure it's a mercy as it didn't turn out a massacree for me, for when we'd got to the middle on it, as the coaches stopped at, and we all got down, leastways I was a-goin' to, but a-'esitatin' on the wheel, when a stout-lookin' chap says, "Come on, I'll ketch thee," and holds out 'is arms.

I says, "I can't jump."

He says, "Jest drop, that's all."

Well, in course I thought he know'd 'is way about, and give a spring at 'im like, thro' its bein' no 'ight, and if I didn't send 'im a-flyin' back'ards into the ditch, as it was lucky were behind 'im, and not a stone wall, as must 'ave smashed 'im.

I fell soft myself on the bank, as is mossy; and glad I was to get a drink of ale, as refreshed me wonderful, and is sold by parties at the roadside.

Every one walked on for to see the view, as I didn't care about, but wandered down-'ill to where there was runnin' water; for it was all a wild rocky part, with 'igh mountings, and in a 'ole up one side of a 'igh rock, there was a cave as a party in the name of Osshun once lived in, but 'owever he got up to it I can't think, unless he lived in them times when 'uman bein's had wings, as were afore the flood, no doubt, and no balloons about.

Well, I was a-walkin' on a-thinkin' of all manner when I 'eard a snort, and up I looks and see a little black beast, with short 'orns and a shaggy coat, as were a somethink between a goat and a cow, I should say, as were a-comin' at me full butt with 'is 'orns.

I couldn't believe as he was in earnest at fust, but I soon see as he meant mischief, so I takes to my 'eels, and makes for a low wall as I see close by, as I managed for to bound like a grey'ound; but, law, that 'ere wicious brute come arter me full tilt, and, no doubt, would 'ave been over the wall too, only I put up my umbreller sudden in 'is face, as seemed to reg'lar scarify 'im, and jest then I 'eard a 'ollerin', and a dog a-barkin', as made 'im lewant, tho' they was only a-callin' arter me, as they was all a-gettin' on the coaches ag'in, so I 'ad to 'urry, and 'ard work it was for me to get up into my seat, for I was in sich a trimble thro' that nasty beast, I

do think I should 'ave dropped, only a gentleman gave me a little drop, as I 'adn't the strength to pour out for myself, as brought the life into me ag'in.

I 'oped as my troubles in Glencoe was over, but far from it, for as we was a-drivin' along the road, we met a coach-load a-comin' the other way, as passed us in a narrer part, and their back seat ketched the back seat as I were on in passin' too close, and reg'lar wrenched it off.

I thought it was all over with me, and so it was as far as that seat went, for down I come, and it's a mercy as I fell gradual, and the last coach too, or I might 'ave been killed with the shock, or run over on the spot, as is where a many 'ave lost their lives no doubt.

I wasn't much 'urt when they got me up ag'in in front, tho' I was glad to get aboard the steamer ag'in, for the fall had dislodged my teeth, and I couldn't speak plain, as made one lady think as I'd 'ad a fit, and called to a gent as were medicinal, as come to me werry kind, but I only shook my 'ead, as made 'im think I were offended, as I esplained arterwards, and to 'is good lady, as were like a sister all the way, and looked quite a gal, tho' she told me she'd been married thirty years, but no doubt it was thro' bein' a cheerful disposition, and a kind 'art, and a 'usban' as was full of 'is fun, and

as fond on 'er as tho' only the 'oney moon. There was some of the party as 'adn't been long married, but didn't go on no foolishness as I 'ave know'd newly-married parties; and there was some young gentlemen as was brim full of their fun, and says to me, "Mrs. Brown, in course you'll pay old Ben a visit."

I says, "Not if it's any larks with the old gent," as do not 'old with liberties bein' took with elders, as is our betters.

"Oh," says one, "he espects wisitors to pay their respects to 'im."

"Then," I says, "I'm there."

Them young fellers went off a-larfin', and nothink more weren't said till we got to a place as they calls Banna Wee, as is the Scotch for little, I knows.

It is a beautiful 'otel, and Mr. Cook he'd bespoke a bed for me, and all was werry nice, partikler the dinner, as I were a-enjoyin' when I see them young gentlemen all get up, and one says to me, "Now, Mrs. Brown, are you ready for a start?"

I says, "Where?"

He says, "Up Ben Nevis."

I says, "Whatever do you mean?"

He says, "Old Ben, as you said you'd wisit up there," and pints to the mountings.

I says, "If he lives up there, you may give 'im my 'umble dooty and say as my legs ain't as young as they was, and he'll feel for me."

But, law bless you, they thought I were serious a-goin' up that mounting, and 'ad a guide all ready, and said they'd be up in time to see the sun set.

"Well," I says, "I've seen 'im set werry well from level ground, quite good enough for me, and as to goin' a-rushin' up mountings arter old Bens, Brown would think me downright mad, let alone my knee, as is my ticklish point now-a-days, ever since that 'ere cartridge went off."

We 'ad a lovely evenin' a-walkin' about that Banna Wee, and some werry nice gents as 'ad come for fishin' made theirselves werry pleasant, tho' they was a-arguin' with a party about them whales as we'd see two days afore, for there was a gent at Banna Wee as 'ad see me that time as I were on that rocky island as 'adn't gone no further with Mr. Cook thro' 'avin' 'urt 'is ancle as were 'is own fault thro' a-jumpin' off the steamer too quick.

He said as they was whales as we'd see, and the others rediculed the idea, a-sayin' as they was purposes.

I says, "I 'ave see a whale myself in goin' to Merryker."

"Yes," says one gent; "but that ain't nothink to the purpose."

I says, "Escuse me, sir, you means as the purpose ain't nothink to the whale, as is a deal smaller, and 'ave seen them a-playin' myself in the Thames like black pigs in shoals."

So they all larfs 'arty as changed the subject, but proved to be whales arter all, as I see in the papers only the other day as they'd been all caught, and would be a nice penny in some one's pocket.

Not as I can think whatever can be the use of whales as is only train ile, now gas 'ave come in as did used to be the parish lamps and give a miserable light, and of all the stuff to smell it's the werry wust, for I well remembers 'earin' of a lady of title as 'ad a 'lumination star fall over 'er as was all red and green lamps, and drenched 'er to the skin at Wox-'all when the 'lied sufferins was there along with the Duke of Wellin'ton, as smelt that dreadful as nobody couldn't bear it, and were obligated to be sent 'ome in a 'ackney coach alone, settin' on the straw at the bottom, and everythink on 'ad to be burnt from a 'at and feathers downwards.

We started early from Banna Wee, and them young gents as 'ad been up the mounting was full of it, as must 'ave been a tough job, partikler the comin' down as were a breakneck job thro' the guide a-keepin' up full gallop all the way. As of course were used to it, and wanted to get to bed.

All as they complained on was not a-gettin' a

cup of tea when they got back, as the parties at the 'otel wouldn't give 'em, as is a refreshin' thing, and only a little bilin' water arter all; as ain't no great trouble, tho' it was 'alf-past eleven when they got back.

I'm sure I'd 'ave got up and made 'em one myself with pleasure, as was better for 'em than beer and sperrits, and I do like young people for to be encouraged in doin' them plucky things, not as they was all young, for there was one party as were well on in life, he went up that mounting with his son and no guide nor nothink, just as cool as a lettice, as the sayin' is.

It's werry pleasant a-goin' along that ere Caledonian Canal as makes it a short cut up to them 'ighlands, but 'owever we could keep on a-goin' up 'ill by water is more than I can make out, tho' one gent did tell me it was all thro' the locks as opens one arter another, but I'm sure they're level enough.

We got to Inverness early in the day, and 'ad 'ad a pleasant party enough all, but some old stuck-up things, as was three sisters, and one on 'em thro' avin' a dreadful 'eadache were arterwards thankful for my smellin' salts, not as she deserved 'em, thro' bein' that rude to me at one place where there were a omblibus to take us from the steamer to the 'otel.

I was jest a-gettin' in, as they'd got in afore me, and one on 'em says, "There's no room."

Her bags and things was layin' on the seat, sho says, "I want this place for my things."

I says, "If you don't want 'em set on, you'd better move 'em," as would 'ave soon 'ave squashed 'em as 'ave looked at 'er.

She ketched 'em up, a-seein' as I were in earnest, and jest then the 'orses begun to back.

I says, "I 'ope as they won't go and back us into the canal, the same as they did at Dublin."

"Let me out," says the old gal, in a fright.

I knowed she couldn't get past me, so set as firm as a rock, thro' there bein' no danger. I says, "You needn't be afraid."

She says, "Don't address me," and then a-turnin' to the others, she says, "Ladies will be obligated to stop at 'ome, for these wulgar escursionists quite ruin the place."

I says, "I'm sure your fit to travel then, if ladies did ought to stop at 'ome," and that shet 'er up.

I didn't see 'er no more that evenin' arter she got out of the bus, as proved 'er to be no lady, for thro' bein' old, she couldn't get out without a struggle, and a gentleman, as was a-standin' by, offered 'er is 'and to 'elp 'er down, and she drawed back, and give 'im a look, as if he'd insulted 'er gross.

The next day aboard the steamer I see my lady quite done up, a-layin' on a seat, lookin' that bad, that I offered one of 'er friends my smellin' salts, as was that grateful, and begun to talk werry friendly to me, but said as they'd been werry much put out by not bein' able to find room at a 'otel two days afore, thro' Mr. Cook havin' took up all the beds for 'is party, and 'ad been forced to a shake-down on the floor.

I says, "And why not, in course if Mr. Cook brings a party of five thousand into Scotland, as he 'ave done, he must find 'em beds, as he always do, and would if they was fifty thousand, and a werry good thing too for Scotland; and I'm sure as you don't begrudge people a pleasant 'oliday on reasonable terms."

"No," she said, "as she didn't, but it was werry ill convenient."

"Yes," I says, "that's the way of the world, but," I says, "I 'ave 'eard say as it is the best plan for to write before, and when you wants beds," as in course is common sense and only reasonable as it should be, fust come fust served, tho' sometimes nothink but a double-bedded room, as I 'ad to take myself at one place, and never 'ad sich a shock never before nor since, tho' not any fault of mine, nor yet any one's else's, as it turned out.

For I'd gone to bed early and 'adn't locked my

door through a-knowin' as a lady were a-goin' to take the other bed.

I'm one of them as when I've 'ad my sleep wakes up quite fresh like, and early, and so I did that next mornin', jest as the sun come a-blazin' thro' the curtings.

Of all the snores as ever I did 'ear, they was a-comin' from that other bed, as made me set up in mine for to 'ave a good look at that snorer.

You might 'ave knocked me down with a feather, as the sayin' is, for if in the other bed there wasn't a-layin' a old man with 'is 'ead tied up in a wusted nightcap.

I didn't know whatever to do, for there wasn't no bell at the bed 'ead, and I'd sooner 'ave died than 'ave got out of bed, as would 'ave pre'aps woke the old beast up.

Jest then I see as he was a-gettin' restless, so I crouches down ag'in, and covers my 'ead nearly over with the sheet, for to watch 'im and see 'im put out 'is 'and and take his snuff-box off a chair by the bedside and take a pinch of snuff as seemed to rouse 'im thorough, and I thought he was a-goin' to get out of bed.

So jest then I 'eard a step; and 'ollers, "'elp, murder, fire, thieves," as loud as ever I could, and into the room come a couple of men all of a bustle.

I 'ad my 'ead under the sheet all but a eye, and

I says, "Send for the perlice, and 'ave 'im took up, a willin."

Then I heard some one say, "Oh, you bold, shameless old 'ussey, to call men into the room like that."

I says, "Take that feller out of the bed."

They says, "What bed? There ain't no feller in no bed, as we can see."

I says, "He is, he's in the other bed."

I 'adn't 'ardly got the words out when I felt drenched, as made me jump up, and there was that old wretch in the wusted nightcap a-standin' there, with a plaid shawl on, and the water jug as 'ad been emptied all over me.

I says, "You willin, 'ow dare you," still thinkin' it were a man.

"Who are ye callin' willin, as am as 'onest a woman as yoursell?" And if it wasn't a old Scotch woman, as were the 'ardest, boniest face as ever I see, but proved a good soul, and larfed 'arty at my mistake, and didn't throw the water over me in no spite, but thought as I'd got the 'sterrics, as cold water certingly is the best for, and brought Mrs. Chumley out on thro' the werry sight of the jug, as 'er 'usban' was a-goin' to throw over 'er, jest dressed for Gravesend, and a-goin' off in a pet 'cos he would go by rail, when she was mad for the boat, thro' always bein' one to show off, and wanted to dance

on the deck, as he didn't 'old with, and right too, as is all werry well for gals, but don't become the mother of a family, as did ought to be more partikler in their ways.

I don't know as ever I were more pleased in my born days as in gettin' to Inverness, for there stood Brown, a-waitin' for me, as were that sunburnt, as he looked for all the world like a 'aymaker.

He'd been and got there the night afore, and was a-stoppin' along with friends of 'is'n in the name of McDoodle, as was engineers, and that glad to see me as if I'd been their own flesh and blood, as is cousins to everybody in Scotland, and a pretty 'ouse, not like most on 'em, built on the flat, but a 'igh roof, as Mrs. McDoodle told me was a self-contained 'ouse, as they'd bought the few on.

I says, "Oh, indeed, I suppose it was a lot."

She says, "No; only one."

I says, "Ah!" not a-knowin' what she meant by buyin' a few, if there was only one, but tho' I didn't like to ask 'er, I 'eard arterwards were Scotch for lease. As they do use sing'ler espressions; for that first day as we was there they asked me if I'd like "a few broth," as meant "a good deal," for they filled my plate, and somethink like broth too, with lots of meat in it, and delicious fresh wegetables and pearl-barley.

We stopped along with them McDoodles two

days for to rest me, and 'ad a 'appy time, all but for me a-makin' a mistake, as might 'ave scalded me to death. For we was all a-settin' down to dinner, and a dish were put oppersite me, as looked for all the world like a meat puddin'

So, says Mr. McDoodle to me as he'd lay me a wager I couldn't carve it without a-splashin' it all over the cloth.

I says, "That's a thing as I never does, except when anythink is put on too small a dish."

He says, "You've cut one afore, then."

"Law," I says, "scores of times."

"Oh, then," he says, "you knows the joke," leastways he said "ken," as is the Scotch for know.

I says, "I should say I did," and without more ado I sticks my knife into that puddin', and squash, out it gushed all over me like the flood-gates a-givin' way.

I never was so drownded; and as to old McSnuffy as is Mrs. McDoodle's father, werry infirm and set next me, he was a-drippin' from 'ead to foot, and 'is eye as he can see out on bunged up with the beastly thing as is what they calls a 'aggis.

Goodness knows what it's made on, I don't; but of all the over-blowed bustin' dishes as ever I see, it beat 'em 'oller.

Mrs. McDoodle was dreadful put out with 'er 'usban' for givin' it me to carve, a-thinkin' as he'd

gone to play me a trick; but certingly it were not 'is fault nor mine neither, as took it for a puddin' and not a bag of offal, as is what it is in plain English, whatever they may call it in Scotch.

But, law, we was all werry jolly, and 'ad a pleasant arternoon, a-singin' of songs and a-tellin' of old nannygoats as they're full on up there thro' bein' shepherds, and lovely sheep too, let alone the mutton, for their wool is that fine it makes them lovely plaids as they calls 'em as I got a gownd on myself, as is a werry good dress for them as 'ave to set on them damp rocks as strikes cold to the constitution.

We 'ad some lovely singin' in the evenin' as is werry beautiful, not as I could understand all the words of some on 'em; there was one young gal sung a song about a party in the name of Robin Gray, as were a old fool as went and got a young gal to marry 'im thro' distress 'cos 'er parents 'ad 'ad great misfortunes in losin' their cow, and 'er all the time in love with a young sailor.

So I says as I didn't 'old with that song, and I says if she is wretched it serves 'er right.

They says to me "Why?"

I says, "What right 'ad she to marry that old feller with 'er 'art on the sea?"

"Oh," they says, "to save 'er parents from ruin."

I says, "She'd better 'ave gone to the work-'ouse with 'em, as they'd 'ave wished 'er to if they'd been true-'arted people." They was all ag'in me, but I says, "If she'd been a child of mine I'd rather 'ave see 'er dead than wife to a old beast like that, as if he'd been a true man would 'ave fed 'er father and mother too, and not 'ave wanted a gal to be 'is wife as must 'ave downright loathed the sight on 'im, and the sailor not dead arter all."

A young gal as was there when she wished me good-night, said "Thank you, Mrs. Brown." When they was all gone, old McDoodle said "I'm right glad you spoke as you did, tho' I didn't like to side with you for fear of givin' offence, for there's old McClarty as wants 'is gal as is jest seventeen to marry 'is landlord as is sixty-eight, jest to get 'is lease renewed." And glad I was to 'ear arterwards as that young gal made a bolt on it with a young feller as she loved.

For tho' I'm not one ever to 'old up young people in disobeyin' their parents, yet parents did not ought for to try and sell their children, as they would cattle or negro blacks.

I never was so took aback in my life, as I were a-walkin' by the river side one mornin' and see a lot of gals and women all a-washin', with their legs that bare as is downright scandalous.

In course we all knows as women 'ave got legs,

but they was never intended to be used for washin' like that with; but in course it's nothink when you're used to it, the same as them kilts, as looks werry sing'ler to the naked eye, but don't mean no 'arm, no more than the washin', tho' both looks bold, partikler in a fieldmale; tho' I wonders them washerwomen don't wear kilts altogether, as wouldn't be in the way, and save the trouble of tuckin' up their gownds, nor run into so much stuff.

It was werry 'ard work for me and Brown to get away from them McDoodles, as was a jolly lot; but we was obligated for to go thro' Brown 'avin' some friends as he was a-goin' to, near where Queen Wictoria lives, as well as 'avin' to see a party at a place called Dunkeld.

We started off by a early train, and 'ad werry pleasant parties with us.

Some on 'em 'ad been a-stayin' at a temperance 'otel, as is called Waverley, arter one of Shakespeare's plays; leastways so one young man said in the train, as was full of his spoutin', and I think was a play-actor, by 'is ways and long 'air, werry curly, as didn't know much about a brush and comb, tho' lots of grease.

He was full of the Waverley, thro' bein' one of the Band of 'Ope growed up, as 'ad lectured many thousand times, he said, on temperance.

Another young man as 'ad stopped at the Union,

as is strength, as the sayin' is, and not temperance, got a-charfin' 'im, and said as he'd 'ad a splendid glass of whiskey afore startin'

I must say, as I do think, with a little new milk it's a fine thing ag'in the mornin' air on the empty stomick, as must strike cold jest out of bed, and took it myself, leastways Mr. McDoodle forced me to.

It certingly is werry wild all the way along from Inverness, and that young 'Opeful, as they called the lecturer, he kep' a-goin' on about the battle-field as we passed over, where they do say as a feller, as they called Duke of Cumberland, 'ad all the wounded butchered in cold blood, the day arter the battle.

I says, "I don't believe it, as any English duke, 'owever angry, would do it."

Says one, "But he did tho' "

Says another, "He wasn't English at all, but only a German."

"Oh!" I says, "then that makes all the difference, 'cos some of them German dukes is downright tyrants."

"But it come 'ome to 'im," says another; "for tho' he was werry brave in killin' the wounded, but turned tail ag'in the French in battle, and give into 'em, and died in disgrace thro' bein' proved a coward, as 'is own father called 'im to 'is face, and

that's why I considers," says that gentleman, "as 'is statty did not ought to be put up ag'in in Scavenger's Square, and wrote to the papers."

I says, "Jest the place for such a ruffian."

"No," says the gentleman, "the dunghill's the place for 'im."

They showed us the place as we went along where Queen Wictoria 'ad to dine by the road side off two chickens as were that tough she couldn't eat 'em.

"Ah," I says, "if I were Queen Wictoria, I'd never travel without a good 'amper at the back of the carriage, like parties takes to the Darby."

Well, that young play-actin' party, he busts out sudden a-sayin' as 'is name were Norval on the Grampian 'ills, and felt inspired at the sight on 'em.

I says, "Then if you lives about 'ere, sir, pre'aps you can tell me where a party lived as I've 'eard tell about as met three witches on a 'eath, as told 'im he should be king 'ereafter."

"Ah," he says, a-startin'; "Glamis thou art. Cawdor thou art."

I says, "Oh, dear no. My name is Brown, and afore that Graves, as is changed now thro' my mother a-marryin' ag'in in the name of Falkner."

He didn't make no remark, but said after a bit,

"'Ad he not looked so like my father as he slep', I myself 'ad done it."

It give me sich a turn, for he was a-settin' next to Brown as were fast asleep, as was most of the others.

So I says, "I must beg as you won't go to disturb my good gentleman, as is a light sleeper."

He only says, a-lookin' at me wild, "She should 'ave died 'ereafter."

I was that terrified, a-feelin' sure he was a lunatic as 'ad broke loose from somewheres, so I give Brown a kick and woke 'im, and it was quite a 'appy release when the train stopped and woke up everybody else.

We 'ad a lovely walk thro' a place as they called Killy Cranky, and I should say as any one as were Cranky did not ought to be trusted there alone, as is a wild rocky spot, with a river a-runnin' thro' it like mad, so if you was to fall over the rocks, you'd be drownded to a dead certainty, as is the only thing as is a certainty in this life.

There's a place where a party in the name of Dundee were shot at a-drinkin' fountain, as that young spoutin' feller kep' on a-singin' about to me, as we went along, for he would stick to me all the way.

I says, "That's 'im, then, I suppose, as inwented the marmalade, as I've seen the name on the pots;"

but I says, "I 'adn't no idea as they'd inwented them drinkin' fountings so long ago, and is quite new in London, as I don't 'old with drinkin' at myself, as 'ave 'eard speak of parties gettin' a sore mouth, but never of any one bein' shot; tho' pre'aps he were dry rubbish as may be shot anywheres."

"Oh," he says, "he wasn't no rubbish, but a reg'lar gentleman, as kep' 'is word to 'is king and country."

Then I says, "I 'oners 'im for it."

Well, that young man would go on so a-spoutin' close ag'in the 'edge, that at last I says to 'im, "Would you be so good as to give me your arm," for I really were afraid as he'd go and dash 'isself over the rocks.

He was werry perlite a-givin' of me 'is arm afore my face, but I 'eard 'im say arterwards, when he didn't think as I was nigh, "that he'd 'ad a nice job a-towin' a old seventy-four thro' the glen, as 'ad nearly tore 'is arm out."

I 'eard 'im say it when I was a-settin' in a pretty garden behind a tree, at the place where we dined, as is called Pitlockry, a lovely spot, and sich a nice 'otel, as I says to Brown, as I should like to stop at, as lots of parties does, as is like a quiet 'ome, with lovely views all round, where parties is took in by the week.

Brown, he says, "Ah, some day," only we 'adn't got time then.

Brown kep' a-'urryin' on werry unpatient, as put me out with 'im, not as I were altogether pleased with 'im at Inverness a-makin' jokes about me bein' lost, a-sayin' as I were like a bad penny, sure to turn up, as I says is a bad comparison, afore the Scotch too, as can't a-bear a bad penny, and is sich 'usban's, and takes a pride in their wives, tho' they do let 'em wash by the river side, and even work in the fields, but it's their wild ways, the same as wearin' no shoes and stockin's, as many on 'em can't a-bear to put on, tho' a bad thing for to go without, as spreads the foot, and tho' it may keep off corns, I'm sure brings on bunions.

We got on to Dunkeld for to sleep, as belongs to the Duke of Athole, as inwented that brose as is nearly all whiskey.

He's got a noble place, tho' it don't look like a 'uman 'abitation, tho' lovely grounds with a 'ermit's cave, full of lookin'-glasses as showed the water, but werry up-'ill work in 'ot weather; besides I wanted to rest, for we was a-goin' to a 'ighland show, as were a long coach journey, thro' there bein' no railway up there, as is what Queen Wictoria likes to keep 'er place quiet, as is 'er 'appy 'ome; but a tremenjous journey for 'er, tho' always done in 'er sleep, I've 'eard say.

We 'ad a werry pretty ride, as was quite a treat arter them railways, as nearly joggles me to death, let alone the dust, as is pisonous.

We was a-goin' to stop with friends, as is as well in Scotland sometimes; for the 'otels is that crowded that the fust quality 'ave been knowed to be obliged for to sleep in their coaches, and I did 'ear as a 'ole lot was give a night's rest in the Catholic Church, as was a Christian act, any'ow, tho' not a place as I should care for to sleep in, as is nearly all ruins all over Scotland, with no roofs nor winders.

I says to Brown, "Whenever shall we overtake Mr. Cook?" 'Cos I 'adn't 'eard a word about Mrs. Warein, as made me that anxious, partikler as I found as I'd put Warein's speakin'-trumpet into my redicule, in the 'urry of comin' away from Obun that mornin', as 'ad left it on the breakfast table, and me a-thinkin' they was gone aboard the boat, took 'em up, a-intendin' to give 'im them, and forgot all about it, as was werry stupid of me, no doubt, for I 'eard 'im say as he'd been and left 'is flexible under the piller; but I'm sure 'e's as well without it, for, poor soul, it's a downright misery to 'im the way as people will come and roar into it, the same as one man did aboard the steamer, a-comin' from Glasgow, for poor old Warein in gin'ral 'eld it to 'is ear, and let the other end lay on the table; and so

it were a-layin' by 'is side, on the seat of the steamer, and a party as were serious took it up and begun for to shout at 'im, a-sayin' as he 'oped he was not one as would not 'ear.

Well, old Warein is not a serious character, and uncommon erritable when bawled at, as gives 'im hagony; so he up with 'is umbreller and give that party sich a smart one over the shins as made 'im 'owl and 'obble, too; but parties all took old Warein's side. So there it ended, as might 'ave led to words.

Mrs. Warein did leave a line for me, a-makin' sure as I should overtake 'em; but, bless you, there ain't no overtakin' Mr. Cook, as goes thro' the country like a whirlwind, as the sayin' is, and only stops of a Sunday for a day of rest, as is werry proper; not but what I'm one as likes it to be a 'oliday for all, and not a cold dinner neither, as is what a poor man gets all the week.

Not as Mr. Cook would go to give a cold dinner, but everythink quite comfortable, as pleases all as goes with 'im, and everywhere he goes; for I'd 'eard on 'im all along the road, and everyone 'ad a kind word for 'im. So I says to Brown, "Do let's overtake 'im."

"Bless your foolish 'art," says Brown, "why, he's 'ome ag'in by this time, and them as was with 'im."

"What," I says, "do you mean as I shan't see 'im no more this journey, nor all them nice people as was always along with 'im so friendly and pleasant?"

I says, "I am wexed, that I am, and do 'ope as we shall fall in with 'em ag'in somewheres, for I wants to know more on 'em;" and I says, "there were a party from Newcastle as 'ave give me a invitation, and if ever I do go to Newcastle, as I 'opes I shall, I'll go and see 'im, as sure as coals is coals."

I was reg'lar wexed and put out, to think we was parted, for one lady 'ad promised to show me a new stitch in croquet, and another was a-makin' a collar and cuffs as I wanted the pattern on, and tho' I was werry wexed at Glasgow with Maria Lukin, yet 'er ma and me was werry good friends, and 'ad borrowed 'arf-a-crown of me in Edinbro', as 'ad slipped her memory no doubt.

It's often the way with them trifles, as they will, for there was young McTaggit, he borrowed eighteenpence of me once, and never give it a second thought, but I did tho', and longed to remind 'im, for he is such a blower, as the Merrykins calls it, always a-boastin' of bein' such a swell, and a-goin' everywheres, and to 'ear 'im talk you'd think as he were Prince of Wales at the werry least all over; not as he'd borrer eighteenpence of any-

body and not pay, as 'ave been brought up too well for that, and 'is royal ma isn't one to 'old with sich goin's on, as must ruin even a prince in the long run, as it did George IV., as left the National Debt behind 'im when he died, as some says will be our ruin some day, tho' ever since I can remember, everythink 'ave been a-goin' to ruin, accordin' to some.

It was jest the same in my dear mother's time, as married when bread were 'arf-a-crown a loaf, and yet didn't starve to death neither, tho' there was nine on us at one time, and father down with the roomatics by the fortnight together.

Talk of 'ighland shows bein' wonderful, they are indeed, for I'm sure the crowds as come far and near for to see the one as we went to, they was reg'lar 'ighland droves, and I never see such a sight in my life.

It certingly are a lovely spot where they meets, with 'ills and dales, and all manner all over the place, and to see them Scotch a-dancin' and a-goin' on, it's downright wonderful 'owever they can do it.

For my own part it ain't a thing as I cares for, tho' I'm sure I never can forget their kindness nor yet the bagpipes as they begun a-playin' sudden behind my back the same evenin' as we got there.

We was a-settin' arter tea a-talkin' along with Mrs. McDrawley, as is a nice young 'ooman with

two as fine boys as ever I see, as does credit to oatmeal any'ow.

'Er 'usban' he's 'igh up in the perlice thro' bein' a inspector up there, and she keeps the post-office, as ain't much to do, but 'ad a little money thro' 'er mother.

Well, we was a-settin' chattin' on the sofy, and me not a-thinkin' of nothink, when out there busted behind my back sich a yell as I never 'eard afore, as I thought was wild cats got under the sofy.

I 'ad one of the little boys on my knee, and jumps up with a scream, and was a-rushin' out of the place, when Mrs. McDrawley stops me, tho' she couldn't 'ardly speak for larfin'.

I says, "Whatever is it?"

She says, "You're no feerd o' the pipes?"

I says, "What pipes?" thro' not a-smellin' no baccy, as I'd to 'oller, for I couldn't 'ardly 'ear myself speak for the row.

She come close up to me, and give me to understand as they was a-practisin' in the next room for the show.

I says, "Well, I've always thought as a baby show must be a nice row, but this 'll beat it any'ow for screams.

They didn't stop in the 'ouse I'm glad to say, with their beastly pipes, as was played by McDrawley's brothers, and one of 'em head-piper to

some of the 'ighland chiefs, and stands behind 'is chair all dinner a-makin' that row, and Mrs. McDrawley said on grand occasions there'd be as many as five on 'em a-'owlin' at once, tho' some on 'em groans awful like 'uman bein's in pain.

I do think as them Scotch is mad over them pipes, for if they wasn't at 'em the last thing at night and the fust in the mornin'

I 'ad no patience with 'em for a-settin' some dogs a-'owlin' the last thing jest for company's sake, I suppose, as kep' it up all night thro' bein' a full moon, as they always will 'owl at, no doubt thro' bein' kep' awake by the light, as is the way with some Christshuns, for I've knowed parties as couldn't sleep a wink with a light in their eyes, and been obligated myself in sickness to put the light out of sight behind the chimbly board.

There is some as can't abear the tickin' of a clock, nor even a watch under the piller, as is a foolish place for it in my opinion, as is often forgot in gettin' up, as is pretty sure to get the glass smashed in makin' the bed, and in course can't blame the gal.

I don't think as ever I felt the 'eat more in my life than that next day, a-settin' for to see them 'ighlanders show off, as acted werry sing'ler, a-layin' two swords crossways on the ground, and a-dancin' and a-'oppin' all over 'em.

I says to Mrs. McDrawley, "It's always considered unlucky to cross knives," and I'm sure them swords is much more dangerous, as might slip and cut off a toe accidental, as is 'ighly dangerous, and apt for to end in a lock-jaw, the same as a lady I once knowed, as 'ad 'er little toe cut off thro' a-stickin' up thro' 'er shoe, not as I pitied 'er filthy pride, and a copse in three days, as shows the wanity of 'uman life, as is only a wapour arter all.

I see the reason why them 'ighlanders don't wear no trousers, as never could keep 'em up with all that leapin' and dancin', let alone the 'eat, and tearin' them to rags in a instant with their pranks.

I says to Mrs. McDrawley, "They must be as strong as 'Erclese, as the sayin' is, as were the strongest man as ever lived, as I've see is statty in 'Igh Park."

"No," she says, "that were Samson."

"Oh," I says, "no doubt," not a-wishin' to 'ave no argument, and a-thinkin' as Samson pre'aps were a Scotchman, as they always will 'ave is the fust at everythink, as is wonderful people, no doubt.

For when you comes to think as Dr. Watts were Scotch, as wrote the 'ymns, and inwented steam, as is enough to make any feel puffed-up like, and to think as there wouldn't never 'ave been no

steamboats, but for Glasgow, as was the fust, and they keeps on buildin' 'em still, and sends 'em all over the world, as 'ave got the name for 'em, jest like the old Chelsea bun 'ouse, as were always crowded of a Good Friday; and there's Burgess's essence of anchovies, as were found out by a bishop; why, you'll find it at the world's end.

It were a beautiful sight that show, I will say, with ladies, as was dressed lovely, and didn't seem to mind a bit walkin' arm-in-arm with them 'gents, as 'adn't no under garments on; but use is second natur, as the sayin' is.

I cannot say as I altogether 'olds with the dancin', partikler in a 'igh wind, and them 'ighlanders a-gettin' that escited as they danced more and more 'igher and wilder the more them pipes played.

I do think as the noise was a-drivin' 'em mad, for they yelled and shrieked, and jumped like rams with the sheep-dog arter 'em.

'Owever they could do it, I can't think; for they'd been a-wrestlin' all the mornin', and a-pitchin' a big stone about, and throwed a big trunk of a tree ever so far, till I thought as they must bust theirselves into bits.

I don't know what they does it for, but if it's fun, give me earnest, as seems ridiculous to waste your strength like that.

So I says to Brown on the quiet, "I do 'ope as you won't be persuaded for to slip off your things and go a-playin' no tricks."

He says, "Never fear, old gal, a Cockney like me wouldn't 'ave no chance even if I was sich a fool as to try"

"Well," I says, "you wouldn't be the only Cockney as makes a fool of 'isself up 'ere, in dressin' up like Scotch, a-fancyin' theirselves chiefs, 'cos they've got money and can buy a lot of property, tho' they're no more Scotch than me, and made their money in the cart-grease line, no doubt, as I 'eard tell of one as were a reg'lar larfin'-stock, and looked like a sack of fat, with nock-nees, a-struttin' about in a short kilt, and a cap and feather as made me die a-larfin'

We'd a werry nice lunch, but for all that I will say, and I must say as I should 'ave been glad to 'ave got away from them pipes as never stopped their shrieks all day long.

I'm sure them 'ighlanders must 'ave lungs like leather to keep it up so strong, and there weren't no end to it, for one down t'other come on was their game from mornin' till night.

When we did get 'ome there wasn't no peace nor quiet, for we 'ad a tea like the Lord Mayor's feast, and it did my 'art good to see them pipers 'eat, as well they may blow if they eats like that.

Arter tea were over, they was all jolly a-singin' and dancin', with the toddy a-goin' round, but I could not a-bear them pipes a-shrickin' constant, so when there was a stop in the dancin', and a old gent as 'ad took quite enough toddy, and kep' on a-takin' snuff with a spoon out of a ram's 'ead, as 'adn't no trousers on, as is what I don't fancy a man a-settin' down without 'em in the bussum of 'is family.

He says to me, "What do you think of our music?"

"Well," I says, "sir, if you are illudin' to them pipes, I must say as they are noisy to any one as is not used to them, but," I says, "there is one thing as I should like to 'ear."

He says, "What's that?"

"Well," I says, "it's what I've 'eard speak on, but never see."

They was jest a-beginnin' them pipes ag'in, so he 'ollers out "Silence," a-sayin' as this good "leddy," as he called me, wants to 'ear somethink partikler.

There was a dead silence in a instant. "Now," says he, "what is it?"

"Well," I says, "you'll escuse me as a stranger a-askin' for it thro' not a-seein' any one with it, but I should like you just to 'ave one turn with the Scotch fiddle."

If you'd see the old gent's jaw drop, and 'ow he

stared, and one party close by me as 'ad just took a swig at 'is toddy, bust out a-larfin', and it flew all over the place, and pretty nigh strangled 'im, and another give me a slap on the back, a-sayin' "That's no bad."

It was werry bad for me, for he'd a 'and like a shoulder of mutton and a sledge-'ammer put together, and left 'is mark on me, but one old lady as set by me scowled fearful, and said "It's no civil in ye to insult us the like o' that."

I 'adn't no consumption what I'd done till I got up the next mornin', when Brown says to me, "You put your foot in it up to the ancle last night."

I says, "Mr. Brown, don't go to insinivate nothink, for I'm sure no judge and jury never was more sober than me last night, and as to puttin' my foot in it, I'm sure I never wanted to dance that reel, and wouldn't 'ave done it but for you."

He says, "I don't mean the reel as you seemed quite up to, but you're a-talkin' about the Scotch fiddle."

I says, "And why ever not, as must be a deal better than them pipes, and not near so irritatin' to the feelin's."

But when he told me what was meant by the Scotch fiddle, I thought I should 'ave dropped.

I says, "I must 'polergise, in course."

He says, "Let it alone; you'll only make a mess on it."

I says, "I won't, trust me for that."

We was a little bit late at breakfast, for we'd kep' it up late, and when I got down they all began to talk about my dancin', as they said was wonderful light, considerin'.

I didn't care to talk much about it myself, for I was rather ashamed on it, tho' only meant in fun; for old McGruffin, as is a uncle of Mrs. McDrawley, said as he couldn't go to rest without the reel of Tullygorum with me.

I says, "Go on with your rubbish at my time of life."

"Oh," says Mrs. McDrawley, "uncle is over seventy-five," and certingly a fine-limbed man for 'is time of life, as shows it is good for to let the legs 'ave their play in them as is growed up jest the same as babbies, as I always was one for to let 'em kick myself, not as old McGruffin needed to kick to strengthen 'is legs; for I'm sure the kick as he give me, a-settin' behind him, when he was 'avin' 'is fling, as ketched my corn, nearly sent me off in a dead faint.

He kep' a-goin' on so about the reel that, for peace and quiet sake, I said as I'd stand up, jest for to walk thro' it, as looks werry simple to them as is a-lookin' on, but 'ard when you comes to try it,

partikler with them a-jumpin' and shoutin', and snappin' their fingers, as is their 'abits, and a-twirlin' me round, as set my 'ead a-swimmin' and then they all 'ollers out to me, "Set, set;" and so I did, for I staggers to a seat that giddy, and down I flopped, pretty nigh dead for want of breath, when I got a kick as sent me sprawlin' all fours, with a screech as drownded even the pipes, and when I got up if I 'adn't gone and set on old Slaney's feet, as were Mr. McDrawley's grandfather, and a minister, as were a martyr to the gout, and only lifted out of bed on to a settle, jest to see the sport. But I'm sure as the gout ain't took away the use of both 'is feet, as I can bear witness to, for the kick as he give me a dray 'orse is a fool to it.

I suppose I must 'ave 'urt 'im, for they 'ad to take 'im to bed, and I was that sorry, not but what I 'ad my feelin's 'urt myself, and went off to bed in a 'urry.

So in course I didn't want to illude to my dancin' in the mornin', tho' I did ask arter the old gent, and they said as they was afraid it would fly to 'is stomick if drove from his feet, not as my settin' on 'em for a minit could drive it there.

We all felt rather done up, so went for a drive, to see where Queen Wictoria lives in 'er 'ighland

tower, as she takes every year, and sometimes twice.

It ain't much of a place for to look at it, and they do say as some of the Scotch as lives up there 'olds their 'eads a deal 'igher than hern, as was a-livin' in their castles quite the swells, afore ever 'er family was 'eard on, as shows 'ow things may come about; for I've know'd more than one Irish party as did ought to be kings, if everyone 'ad their rights, and, no doubt, there's many a one now as is rollin' in riches as is ill begotten with rightful 'airs a-walkin' about in work'us suits, as is all made one size, no great 'ardship pre'aps, but certingly did ought to be a deal more comfortable for them poor old folks, considerin' the rates as we pays, and it must be nothink but beastly spite as makes 'em treat the sick that shameful as they do.

In course you can't espect luxuries in a work'us, but they need not put a lump of common soda, the same as you uses in washin', into the tea, as they makes it all frothy like soapsuds for the poor old women, as a lady I knows see 'em do with 'er own eyes at Marry'bone.

We didn't see only the outside of that ere castle as is called Balmoral, arter the boots, not as they're things as I can wear myself, tho' they may suit Queen Wictoria's foot.

There was grand doin's all about all that week, not as I cared to see any more of 'em, and Brown, he was gettin' in a bit of a fidget, and I wasn't easy in my mind for fear as he should go a-tryin' any of them games, and give 'isself a strain, so when he talked of goin' I was quite ready.

Talkin' of bein' pressed to stop, I'm sure I thought as they'd never let us go, and 'ad to stop two days longer than we said, for they wouldn't let me 'ave my things from the wash.

I 'ad a chance of 'polergisin' about that ere slip as I 'ad made over the Scotch fiddle, for we was at tea the night afore we left, and a-talkin' about one thing and the other, I says, "What ridiculous notions, parties 'as over in England about Scotland."

They all says, "What do they say?"

"Why," I says, "they told me as you was all obligated for to live on brimstone, thro' 'avin' sich irritable skins."

Says a old woman, as were Mrs. McDrawley's aunt, a-speakin' that broad like as I couldn't quite make 'er out,

"Ye'd best leave our skins alane, and look at your ain nose."

I didn't say nothink, thro' a-feelin' that 'urt, for tho' not a red nose by natur, I must say as the sun 'ad laid 'old on it.

So a-thinkin' to change the subject, I says, "Whatever is the reason as sulphur is so precious," for, I 'adn't seen a bit nowheres all over Scotland.

That old fury she flew out at me and says, as I did ought to be ducked, and all manner, and if they 'adn't brought out the whiskey for the gentlemen as come in just then and didn't care for no tea, I do think as we should 'ave 'ad a row.

But it certingly is sing'ler that Mrs. Lukin should 'ave mentioned as the Scotch was always a-blessin' the Duke of Argyle for a-puttin' up posts for them to rub their backs ag'in, and sure enough all along the road a-leadin' from Inverness there's the posts as looks werry much rubbed.

When I asked Mrs. McDrawley about it, she says, "For mussy sake don't play any more of your jokes on my aunt, as can't see no fun in 'em."

I says, "I'm sure as I'm dumb afore 'er for ever," a dried up 'old 'errin', as took snuff by the bushel, and 'er toddy 'arf and 'arf at the werry least.

But, law, I 'ad enjoyed myself wonderful, and was that sorry to leave, and so was they to lose me, and made me promise faithful as I'd come back, and give me sich recipies for jams, and pickles, and mutton 'ams, as I didn't care much about; but certingly their jams is lovely, especially

marmalade, and yet I never see no oranges a-growin' nowhere about.

Talk of flowers, I never see anythink more lovely than their gardings, as is a wonderful industrious lot, and that larnin' as could talk geography, and all manner; and 'ow the stars was worked, and what made the thunder, till I was quite dumbfoundered and afraid to open my mouth.

The next place as we went to were Perth, as is where the fair maids all come from, I didn't see but two pretty gals there, and they was both dark.

We was only in Perth a few 'ours, as is a old ancient spot, as Scotland is altogether, and once full of fightin', tho' werry peaceful now.

I believe as in old times they was always a-fightin' over somethink or other, as is the way with some.

Not as you can believe a word as is wrote in them 'istories, 'cos in course every one tells 'is own story, and one story is werry good till the other is told, as the sayin' is.

I'm told as nearly all the 'istories 'ave been wrote by Scotchmen, so in course they'd speak the truth.

There was a deal more as I wanted to see in Scotland, but we 'adn't time; I wished partikler to 'ear about Wallis, as were the Nero of Scotland, as I remembers 'avin' read to me by a young lady

where I lived, when quite a gal, as were a noble character; and as to that king as 'ung 'im in chains, why I should like to 'ave the 'angin' of 'im, a waggerbone.

But I ain't no patience to 'ear about them kings and queens and their goin's on, for when they're wile wretches and kills every one, then everybody praises 'em, and when they're good why they're sure to be murdered, as is no doubt the reason as they 'ave pitched into the people so strong, a well knowin' that if they didn't, the people would pitch into them.

I think I must 'ave took cold a-settin' on them 'ighlands, for I was took that bad with lumbago at Edinbro', as we was forced to stop there over a week, as put Brown out dreadful; but I wasn't sorry, for it give me a rest, and we got a lodgin' as didn't come dear, and me and the lady of the 'ouse was soon friends; as to Brown he went back to Glasgow all in a uff, to wait there.

In course Edinbro' is werry different now, but it certingly did give me a turn when we was a-talkin' one evenin' over tea, me and Mrs. Slogin, as we lodged along with, and she told me as she'd know'd the time well when it weren't safe to trust yourself out after dark thro' robberies and murders in the open streets, let alone what were down in some of them old 'ouses.

I never did 'ear a woman so full of 'orrers and stories all about second sight, as is werry common up in the 'ighlands.

"Well," I says, "I'm sure I shouldn't mind 'avin' a second sight of anythink as I've seen up there, as wasn't no ghosts, nor spectres, but flesh and blood, with warm 'arts a-beatin' in 'em."

"Ah!" she said, "but ye've no idea of the dangers of this place when I was a mere girl;" for she was a-tellin' me as there was the burkers alone as was enough to frighten you to death, a-waitin' at the corners of the streets with pitch-plaisters over your mouth, and a large cloak as 'urried you into eternity, where you was cut up for them doctors, as didn't even respect the dead in their graves.

Mrs. Slogin told me as one foggy night in November, a-goin' out on a errant for to fetch 'ome a dress, she'd been seized by a man and 'ad been werry nigh burked 'erself.

Then in course I remembered quite well all about 'Are and Burke as begun that ere game, bein' from Scotland, and they do say as 'Are is a blind beggar about London streets now, as 'ave got 'is punishment it is true, but not a party as I should encourage myself, as in my opinion deserves to starve, a cruel wretch.

I never shall forget about that poor Italian boy, and jest for 'is teeth too, as is enough to make any-

one quite timbersome to show, as they'ave got a good set, partikler when fastened in with a gold plate.

So, tho' better arter two days rest, I didn't relish a-goin' about nowheres of a evenin', with the days a-drawin' in, for Mrs. Slogin did say as parties is alive now as did used to encourage them burkers.

'Ow they can sleep in their beds, I can't think.

I got my 'ead so full of them burkers, as I dreamt of nothink else all that night.

The next arternoon I got a letter from Brown, a-tellin' me to come on to Glasgow to 'im the next day arter, as he were a-goin' 'ome straight, and didn't want to come back to Edinbro'

Well, Mrs. Slogin she'd gone out early, a-meanin' to tea along with 'er sister, as lives in the old town, and I'd promised for to go arter 'er, if a-feelin' up to it.

So I puts on my things and walks that way slow, and took a friendly cup of tea, tho' up too many stairs for me.

We come away early, tho' dusk, and as we was a-crossin' what they calls the North Bridge, Mrs. Slogin says to me, "This is jest about where I was dodged by that 'ere burker, as followed me all the way to Queen Street, where I was a-livin' lady's-maid, and werry nigh throttled me on the stair, as was only saved thro' the openin' of a door on another flat."

Jest then we got to the corner of 'er street, and she says as she wanted to call in at a shop, and says to me, "Do you walk on slow, and I'll overtake you in a minit."

So on I walks, and gets to 'er door, as lives on the second floor, and jest as I got to the door on the fust floor, out of it busts a man, and seizes 'old on me, and tries to drag me into the apartment, a-sayin' "I've been a-waitin' for you, and now I've got you, for the doctor's a-waitin' for you."

I give a scream, and says "'elp," and backs out ag'in wiolent, makin' sure he were a burker.

He says, "Ye canna be spared ony langer."

I didn't make no more ado, but flies at 'is throat and pins 'im ag'in the wall, and jest then a gal came out, as flew at me and give it me frightful 'ot with 'er knees and fistes into my back.

We was all in the door-way as I wouldn't let 'em shut, and it's lucky as I didn't, for Mrs. Slogin wouldn't never 'ave seen me, as come up jest then, and soon set it all to rights, as were all a mistake, thro' there bein' sickness in the 'ouse, and a nuss espected as 'ad disappointed 'em, and the poor man 'arf crazy, a-rushin' for the doctor.

So all were esplained, and just then the nuss come, a reg'lar old fright, not a bit like me, but I felt that gal's knees as 'ad touched up my back pretty sharp, and Mrs. Slogin told me as I pretty

nigh strangled that party as I took for a burker, let alone the noise nearly frightenin' 'is poor wife to death, not as it were not my fault, nor 'is'n neither, but all that dratted gal as 'ad been out on a errand and see me a-comin' up to the stair, and thought as I were the party as they'd been waitin' for for 'ours, so up she rushes to say as I were come, and out come the 'usban' to meet me, and so caused all the confusion, as might have ended serious.

I can't say as I were sorry to be off out of Edinbro', tho' Mrs. Slogin were a sister to me, and shed tears at partin', but I wanted to be 'ome.

Of all the places as I went thro' for to get to Glasgow I never did; and as to Glasgow, it's like livin' in a chimbly, tho' a fine town, no doubt, if you could see it.

We was only there one night, and stopped at one of them temperance 'otels, as was that quiet, as it seemed quite like 'ome; tho' I must say as Brown come in werry late, as said as he'd been out on business, as no doubt he 'ad, but not on a dry job I should say, altogether, tho' not a man ever to forget 'isself with liquor.

I'm sure it was quite a pleasure for me to go anywheres in Scotland, temperance or no temperance, for every one was that kind, and seemed to look on me like a old friend, as I 'opes I shall ever be, thro' bein' Scotch myself like by distraction, as the sayin'

is; for I've 'eard say as my grandfather's, great aunt by the mother's side, were fust cousin, twice removed to a party as belonged to the Scotch Greys, as is a old ancient family, and grey 'eads is 'onorable all the world over; and as to bein' ashamed on 'em, and a-takin' to dyin', I says, "Never as cannot 'elp a front, as may be took to casily, thro' the 'air a-wearin' off at the partin', and a-goin' altogether," for tho' I do consider as a nice bald 'ead looks well in a man, it is certingly a eyesore in a fieldmale.

But, law, when I comes to look back, it seems like a dream, me a-goin' to Scotland; not but what that's what life is altogether, and not by no means a pleasant one to everybody, and a downright nightmare to some.

I must say as I'm fond on the Scotch, and am sorry as they're a-gettin' fewer and fewer thro' them a-emigratin', and all the place bein' turned into 'untin' grounds, as is werry well for pleasure in them as can afford it—but 'ow about the poor?

Ah, it's a 'ard world for them as ain't got money, as I were a-sayin' to a gent aboard the steamer a-goin' thro' them locks, as he said was all kep' for preserves.

I says, "Oh, indeed; but," I says, "whatever can they get to preserve off them 'ills?" for I knowed as no fruit growed there but blackberries.

"Oh," he says, "plenty of game."

"Well," I says, "preserves is werry well in fruits and sich-like, but I do not 'old with them preserved meats, and what is game but meat when all said and done?"

"Oh," he says, "you'd preserve it if you knowed the cost of it."

"Well," I says, "goodness knows, meat is dear enough in London, as rump-steak is charged fourteenpence the pound; though not a price as I'd pay, with my money in my 'and, so in course if they can preserve it, and send it up, why all the better, as I 'ear they're a-goin' to do with beef from Australia, as I 'ope'll be better than what they sent one time from South Merryker, a-callin' of it jarky, and jarky work it was for the teeth, I'm sure, as chew it you couldn't, 'owever much you tried."

"Well," says the gentleman, as stared at me werry 'ard, "we must get the meat from somewhere if we're to feed the people."

"Oh," I says, "there's lots of food for every one, if it wasn't as some is too greedy and gets more than their share, and won't let others 'ave a bit, though they can't eat it all theirselves any more than they can sleep in more than one bed at a time."

I don't think as that old gentleman understood me a bit, for I 'eard 'im say, that werry arternoon,

as he never met such a estraordinary old woman as that is in the plaid gownd and yaller bonnet; not as he need 'ave called me old, for I might 'ave been 'is daughter, and I'm sure my gownd were a lovely plaid, and as to my bonnet, it were trimmed new a brimstone colour to come to Scotland in, but the blacks out of the steamer's chimbly 'ad reg'lar done for it, let alone the steam, as come down in showers and lodged in the trimmin'.

There is one thing as I can't make out, and why it is them Scotch should speak that sing'ler, leastways it sounded so to me thro' always bein' used to 'ear good Hinglish, and can't abear no bad langwidge, and my dear mother always did used to say to me, "Martha, whatever you do, speak like a lady," as is my constant aims, tho' not one to boast of my larnin' nor nothink.

I was that pleased with goin' to Scotland with Mr. Cook, that if I 'adn't been a-goin' to Margate I should 'ave liked to 'ave gone along with 'im to Switzerland, as he started for next week.

Brown he reg'lar snubbed it, as the sayin' is, for he says "You're such a old duffer for gettin' left behind, as is all werry well near 'ome, but if you was to be left a-stickin' on the Halps, it would be all up with you then as wouldn't never be got off."

I says, "Brown, there's many a true word spoke in jest, as the sayin' is, and it might so 'appen, and

what would your feelin's be, if I were brought 'ome to you piecemeal, or reg'lar discoloured, the same as old Mr. Adams, as went up on to the top of the 'ouse thro' the chimbly a fire, and fell 'ead foremost into the cockloft next door, through 'a-mistakin' the parapitch, as was where they 'ad a dye-'ouse, and never got the colour out 'im thro' fallin' into a wat as were a bright mauve, and warranted fast, as 'ave settled in the back of 'is 'ead, tho' over two years ago, and is a proof of the colour a-standin' even with constant washin'."

'Owever them plaids is dyed puzzles me, and not 'ave one colour run into the other, but, law, them Scotch can do anythink, as is that perseverin', as they'll go a-walkin' and a-stalkin' for weeks arter a deer, and ketch 'im at last, tho' wonderful swift and can smell you at any distance, they tells me, so they always keeps to the windward on 'em the same as you did always to do aboard a steamer, tho' I must say as I found it werry unpleasant, tho' it may be the rules at sea; the same as keepin' the left 'and in drivin'

I don't think as ever I felt better in my life than when I got back from Scotland, and that sunburnt as you'd think I'd been out to Ingy, with my nose all skinned.

It's a rare 'ealthy place to go to, and for any one as wants a bit of a run, as every one does as is shet

up in business all their lives, and when sickly let 'em 'ave a bit of a Scotch fling with Mr. Cook, as will know their espenees, and be saved all the bother, and as to fieldmales as is on the look out for a protector, there can't be nothink like it, let alone Mr. Cook as is all attention, thro' bein' a married man 'isself, but I'm sure all the gentlemen of the party was that attentive as it were quite a pleasure, and yet no free ways nor nothink as required a check.

I must say as the Scotch did use to stare at me werry 'ard, as don't seem to me to know always what they're a-talkin' about, for I see a poor gal one evenin' as looked werry pale and thin, a-restin' by the roadside, and a old woman with 'er, and as I wanted rest thro' it bein' up 'ill, I stopped and asked what were the matter.

"Oh!" says the old woman, "she's just a poor silly creature."

But, law bless you, when I talked to that young woman she 'ad all 'er wits about 'er; and they told me arterwards as the old woman only meant as she were weak and sickly, as it were werry unfeelin' to call 'er silly for bein'

I was werry often took a-back by their ways of talkin' about all manner, partikler one day as I come in arter 'avin' 'ad for to cross one of them brooks, as they calls burns, as I should say scalds was nearer

the mark, they all says to me when I got in, "You'd best change your feet," as reg'lar puzzled me, till I found as they calls shoes and stockin's feet, as certingly is much the same.

I thought I should 'ave burst out larfin' in Mrs. McDrawley's aunt's face, when she said to me one arternoon, "As I should ne'er sit on the door."

I says, "I am not a-goin' to, mum," a-wonderin' 'owever it were done; but a-thinkin' it was one of their old ancient ways pre'aps, and not a place as I could 'ave climbed to, not to 'ave saved my life, and then found as she meant ag'in the door.

As to me climbin', I couldn't even get over a gate one arternoon, as a dog chivvied me ever so far, and was a-balancin' myself on the top bar jest as the shepherd called 'im off, as I suppose took me for a lost sheep, as in course he might do, a-judgin' only by the scent, for my dress were only wool arter all, and jest the same as a sheep's, when you comes to think on it.

I do 'ope as I shall go to the 'ighlands ag'in, in fact all over Scotland, if it's only to say thank you once more to all them as 'ave treated me so kind there; and let any one as wants to know anythink about Mr. Cook's escursions only come to me as may rely on secrecy, and needn't put no name nor address neither, and then could not be found out.

Not but what I've got a friend as will always

answer for me I'm sure in Fleet Street, as is No. 80, not as I'm ashamed of my own name, and don't 'old with two faces under one 'ood, as the sayin' is, yet am sure as he would speak up for me; thro' bein' one as would always stick to a old friend at a pinch.

Not as any one can say as ever any one offered me a pinch in all Scotland, except one as were a mull, as is their 'abits, tho' that 'igh dried, as the wind took it all into my face, and is said to be a fine thing for the eye, and made a-purpose, as is called Grimstone, or Brimstone, I don't know which.

It certingly were lovely weather all the time we was in Scotland, as is always so with Mr. Cook, and goes by the name on it, the same as Queen Wictoria weather, as in course wouldn't go out without it, thro' not bein' obligated to; not as the Scotch minds the weather a bit, and is that 'ardy as they will jest as soon go out weather or no, as the sayin' is, and a unconquerable lot as never give in to England till they was united by law, as in course it's a duty for to obey, or else you'll be made to, so it's best to do it with a good grace.

Not as I 'olds with parties bein' bullied by the perlice, the same as them three young gentlemen was in the 'Aymarket, and locked up wrongful and no redress, as is as bad as what 'appened in Paris to two brothers, as I heard speak on, when there

was them rows over there about the elections, as was a-walkin' peaceable thro' a street where there wasn't no crowd nor nothink a-goin' on, and was set on by six of the surgons de weal, as kicked 'em about and dragged 'em to prison, as was kep' in four-and-twenty 'ours and then let go, arter bein' kep' in a filthy place where 'undreds 'ad been shet up for over two days, and 'arf-starved, and then told as they was orderly, well-behaved parties as was what they knowed afore, and couldn't get no satisfaction, nor nothink, all because of our bein' afraid of offendin' that Bonyparty as old King George would 'ave punched 'is 'ead long ago.

Nowadays we can be werry brave ag'in a poor nigger wretch, like that there king of Abbysinyer, as wasn't no better than a nigger, and never 'ad a chance of tellin' 'is side of the story, but were soon snuffed out, but knocks under to any one as can 'old their own.

But, law, what is the use of talkin', it's all the same all the world over; one man may steal a 'orse where another durstn't look over the 'edge, as the sayin' is.

But, law, now as I'm got back 'ome ag'in from Scotland, I must say as their ways is sing'ler, for I knowed one young boy as wouldn't touch a bit of salt, and said as he liked a hegg as 'ad some flaviour

in it, as was that musty as was enough to blow your 'ead off, and would 'ave upset me, as is a thing I can't abear, and never shall forget one as got into my Christmas puddin' unbeknown one year, and spilte the lot.

Not as I believes that rubbish about the Scotchman as liked 'is heggs 'addled thro' a-thinkin' as he'd got a chicken for the price of a hegg into the bargain.

I must say as they told me some wonderful tales about what they called rathes, as is a-seein' any one afore their death as isn't their real selves, but their sperrits.

But, law, it ain't no use a-givin' in to them things as is enough to make your life a burden to you, the same as believin' in dreams, as, in a general way, is only what you 'ave 'ad for supper, not but what I did 'ear wonderful things about a dream, as certingly found out about Maria Martin bein' murdered in the Red Barn, as were a lonely spot, but mustn't be give into no more than second sight, as werry nigh led me into a pretty 'obble.

For when we was in the 'ighlands, once me and Brown 'ad a sofy-bed in a parlour, thro' one place bein' that full, as there wasn't 'ardly room to stick a pin, as the sayin' is.

Well, I'd gone to bed early, thro' my 'ead a splittin', afore Brown, and must 'ave been asleep,

when I 'eard a noise as woke me up, and I looks out of the bed, and what should I see but the floor a-openin', and a man's 'ead a-comin' up with a light.

Thinks I to myself, this is one of them second sights as is a-comin' to warn me ag'in somethink as is a-goin' to 'appen, as is what I don't 'old with, for in my opinion it's better not to know as is wisely ordered in a general way, for if we was to know what's a-goin' to 'appen next week we shouldn't do nothink.

Tho' I do wish as I'd knowed as it were a-goin' to be wet the other day, and would not 'ave 'ad my blankets and counterpins washed, as was a reg'lar bother to 'ave the dryin' on 'em indoors, as broke the lines twice across the kitchen, as there was no a-goin' into all day for 'em, and never seems that fresh and 'olesome like, as a good blow makes 'em, and our back gardin is a reg'lar whirlwind when it blows from the back of the 'ouse.

Well, I says to myself, "I ain't a-goin' to listen to none of this ere rathe's goin's on," and see as he were a-comin' up slow thro' the floor as were a flap door, so I creeps out of bed quite quiet, and in two steps was upon that flap, as opened the other way, so that sperrit 'ad 'is back to me.

I takes and jumps with a spring on the flap all fours, as shet it down with a crump, as the sayin' is.

Of all the rows as ever you 'eard of somebody

a-fallin' and 'ollerin' with broken bottles a-crashin', and in run the people of the 'ouse, a-'owlin' and screechin' like a Scotch bedlam broke loose.

There I was a-layin' on my face over that trap as they tried for to lift me up, only I kicked and plunged a-sayin' get out; for I didn't want a lot of them fellers to be a-pickin' me up.

I says, "Get out of the room all but the ladies, and I'll esplain," and so they did, and then I rolls over and sets up.

Says Mrs. McTagart, as were the lady of the 'ouse's name, "Get up, you're a-murderin' a man as is under you."

I says, "Whatever do you mean?"

She says, "Get off the trap."

I says, "I ain't in no trap, but 'ave seen a second sight."

She called me all the old fools as she could lay 'er tongue to, and says, "She wished she'd never set eyes on me," and opens the door to call in the men, for she couldn't lift up that flap, tho' she pulled 'ard at it by a iron ring.

I says, "Let me put a somethink on afore the oppersite sect is let in."

"Oh," she says, "what's it matter 'ow any one sees a old fright like you."

I says, "I'm ready for any one now, for I slipped on my wrapper and a shawl over my 'ead.

In come two fellers as lifted up that trap; and up they brings a man 'arf dead.

"Ah," I says, "I thought he were a sperrit as is no doubt a thief, and you did ought to be much obliged to me."

They says, "If he dies you'll 'ave to answer for it."

It's well as I don't understand Scotch, for of all the tongues as that 'ooman give loose to as I couldn't have stood from no mortal soul, only thro' bein' undressed, and nowhere to go, and 'er bein' likewise the lady of the 'ouse, as were a reg'lar Dragon at all times, and they do say give McTagart the broom'andle on the quiet; as was the reason as he couldn't wear 'is kilt sometimes for weeks together along of the bruises.

"Well," she says to me, "what are ye been doin', murderin' the man?" only she said "mon."

I says, "He ain't no right there if he's a man, and if he's a rathe as I see a-comin' up thro' the floor, I didn't want 'im in my room."

"Oh," she says, "you've just ruined us," and calls in 'er daughter as spoke more plainer than 'er mother, and if it wasn't all a mistake of mine, for it was only the waiter, poor man, as 'ad gone down into the cellar for to bring up a basketful of bottled hale, and were a-comin' up slow thro' its bein' 'eavy, and if I 'adn't been and shet down

the trap on 'is 'ead and werry nigh stunned 'im to death, for they found 'im a-layin' at the bottom of the steps, with all the broken bottles under 'im, and his nose a-bleedin' like fountings a-playin' with the halc all over the place.

I says, "Whatever right 'ad he a-intrudin' into my room, as is a room all the same, tho' only a sofy-bed on the ground floor.

Says Mrs. McTagart, "What 'arm when you was a-snorin' like an old 'og, and never 'eard us come in; for I looked in myself afore he came in and see you was fast asleep, and it's the only way to the cellar."

I says, "'Ow dares you let a he male creetur come into my room, as if my 'usban' caught 'im might 'ave ended in murder?"

She bust out a-larfin', a-sayin' as my 'usban' didn't care, for he'd give 'im leave.

I was werry much 'urt with Brown, 'as made uncommon light on it afore others, tho' he gave it me pretty 'ot for a-shettin' the trap down on the man's 'ead, as in course I didn't go to do, not a-thinkin' 'im to be real flesh and blood.

I says, "I don't want none of them Scotch ways of goin' on, and all I got to say is if them parties comes into my room unawares, let 'em look out for squalls, as the sayin' is, for if they're men, it's like their impidence, and if only sperrits, let 'em mind their own bissiness."

Says Brown, "You mustn't be so mighty partikler, every one roughs it as comes up to the 'ighlands, from Queen Wictoria downwards, as you can see if you reads 'er book."

I says, "If Queen Wictoria likes to rough it, that's 'er affair, but I'm sure as she wouldn't never let a low-lived pot-boy come up thro' a trap-door close ag'in 'er bed-'ead, and nearly frighten 'er to death, a-starin' at any one in their sleep, for tho' 'is back were turned to me a-comin' up, in course it were the rewerse a-goin' down."

Not as I should 'ave cared so much about it, only bein' short of nightcaps, I 'adn't got on one as I wears in a gin'ral way, with a two deep borders asides 'avin' no 'air on, as I always sets on the Italian iron myself, the same as my dear mother taught me, but was a-sleepin' in my skull cap, with a yaller silk 'ankercher round my 'ead, as I've done, thro' Scotland bein' such a werry draughty place, as is the reason why they're always a-takin' a drop of whiskey, as keeps up the circulation, tho' apt to fly to the nose.

They all 'ad a good larf over my mistake next mornin' afore we started, not as I should have larfed if I'd know'd, as it 'ad cost Brown pretty nigh a sov'rin to pay for the bottled hale, and that feller's 'ead, as wasn't no bones broke, but only stunned.

I'm sure it's a wonder as I didn't ketch my death a-goin' on as I did in Scotland, a-settin' about as I did, partikler at them 'ighland shows, as is all werry well, but rather too much of a good thing for me; and as to Brown, he got a reg'lar fit of the shivers one night, and he says to me, "Martha, I'll tell you what it is, I shall slip off to bed on the quiet, for my bones reg'lar aches."

"Ah," I says, "you've been a-tryin' on one of them kilts in a easterly wind, as is sure to touch you up."

Now I says, "There's only one thing as will set you to rights, and that is your bed warmed, as will draw the cold out of your bones, with a little brown sugar put in the warmin' pan for to throw you into a glow."

He says, "Well, I don't mind, only don't make no row over it."

Well, I see a werry nice warmin'-pan a-'angin' up in the kitchen, as were kep' as bright as a gold watch.

So while they was all a merry-makin' and a-singin', and old Mr. McDoodle were a-dancin' 'is strathspay as they calls it, as I considers a old fool for 'is pains, thro' bein' over seventy, as looks ridiculous in a kilt, and all 'is stockin's come down with the dancin'

Well, he was a-goin' on werry loud, as I

must say as I think as whiskey were at the bottom of it, for a old lady told me as he were a worthy man, and but for the drop would have been a Judge.

Well, while he was a-goin' on, I gives Brown a nudge, and says, "You slip away unbeknown, and I'll go and warm the bed."

So I goes out into the kitchen, and if the fire 'adn't got quite low, so I puts on some coals, and set to and blowed it up with the bellers, as is things I never uses myself, and always locks 'em up at 'ome, for them gals, if they once gets 'old on 'em will blow a ton of coals away in no time, let alone the firewood, as they'll put into the fire by the bundle under the tea-kittle, thro' not 'avin' it on the bile by five, as is my orders.

Well, I blowed up a bit of fire, and then takes a few 'ot coals out from the bottom, puts them in the pan, but couldn't get 'old of the sugar-bason, so 'urries into our bed-room, and if it wasn't all dark, thro' the shetters bein' shet.

I says, "Brown, are you here?" There wasn't no answer.

I says, "'Ow aggrawatin' of Brown not to be come in, as 'll 'ave the bed cold ag'in afore he's undressed."

I knowed jest where the bed stood, so didn't need no light, but felt for the bottom posts, lifts up

the coverin', and runs the warmin'-pan in at the foot.

I felt as there were a hobstacle, and says to myself, "It's some of them boys and gals a been a larkin' a-makin' us a apple-pie bed, no doubt."

So I gives a wiolent drive with the warmin'-pan, and 'eard a roar like ten thousand bulls, and felt the warmin'-pan were sent a-flyin' out ag'in, as the 'andle on ketched me in the chest, and sent me a-spinnin' back'ards, and it's lucky as I always wears them old-fashioned stays with a broad busk, or I should 'ave 'ad my diagram stove in, as the sailors says.

I felt as them live coals must all be in the bed, so 'ollers "Fire!" with all my might, and they all come a-rushin' in with lights, and there was a pretty 'ow-d'ye-do.

For there was old McDoodle, as is uncle to Mr. McDoodle, where we'd been a-stoppin'; he was a-layin' on the bed a-'rithin' in agonies, kickin' and plungin' with a live coal close ag'in 'im, and the pan on the floor, with the lead open, and all the coals out, as was a-singein' everythink.

You never seed such a scene, for some was a-larfin', and some a-yellin' and a-pickin' up the coals, and as to Brown, he set to and called me all the old fools as he could lay 'is tongue to; and others said as they must roll old McDoodle in oatmeal,

whilst some said as he'd 'ave to lay in scraped pertater till mornin' for 'is burns, and all 'is own fault, a old fool, as got a-dancin' and a-drinkin' till that giddy as he run out of the room, and went and throwed 'isself on our bed, thro' not a-knowin' what he was a-doin', till I come and waked 'im up with the warmin'-pan, as in course a kilt ain't no protection ag'in.

When we was alone, as wasn't till next mornin', I give it Brown 'ot, not with the warmin'-pan, but with my tongue, for a-sayin' as he'd come to bed early, and 'ave it warmed, and then to go and set up till past one o'clock, and when he did come to bed to keep a-gigglin' over that accident, as might 'ave ended serous but for that old man bein' a fine constitution, and that 'ardy as could bear pain without bein' inflamed, as a burn is a nasty thing.

It wasn't no use a-talkin' to Brown, as said as the settin' up had done 'im more good than all the warmin'-pans as ever was inwented.

I was werry much put out tho', for fear as that old gentleman should take it in bad part, and pre-'aps fancy as it were one of my jokes, as certingly am fond of a bit of fun, but not anythink as would 'urt any one's feelin's the same as a 'ot warmin'-pan.

But he was a jolly old soul, and larfed 'arty over it, and said as it didn't raise a blister, tho' it

give 'im a shock at fust, as is only nat'ral, for I well remembers myself when a child a-jumpin' into bed on to a warmin'-pan myself, thro' bein' impatient and not a-waitin' till it was out, as was a trifle then, but wouldn't do it now, not for all the world, for I couldn't jump off it ag'in quite so nimble as I did then, as no doubt saved my life.

I 'adn't been 'ome not many days when in who should come but Mrs. Lukin and Maria, as I were glad to see, thro' not bein' one for to bear no malice.

So I says, "Well, I calls this friendly," I says, "and let bygones be bygones," illudin' in my own mind to the eighteenpence as I thought she'd come to pay me back.

Well, I see by 'er looks as there were a screw loose somewheres, as the sayin' is, for she looked werry sour, and Maria set a-lookin' straight down 'er nose, leastways as straight as she could with the bridge broke.

Says Mrs. Lukin, a-bridlin' up, "Our wisit, Mrs. Brown, is business."

I says, "Well, then, set down, and let's 'ave it out, as is only a trifle, arter all; but if you will be proud, and settle it, well and good;" still my 'ead a-runnin' ag'in that eighteenpence.

She says, "I am not proud, as is sinful, but," she says, "I cannot be spoke ag'in behind my

back, and 'ave that poor orphin gal's character ruined thro' you, mum."

I says, "Whatever do you mean?"—a-turnin' round sudden, for I was at my corner cupboard, a-gettin' out some refreshments for 'em thro' a-lookin' dry and dusty with a long omblibus ride.

"Oh!" says Maria, "ma's 'art's too full to speak, and so I must, tho' it goes ag'in the grain to speak to such a slanderer."

"Oh!" I says, "if you've come 'ere with your low-lived abuse," I says, "the sooner as you takes the 'bus 'ome ag'in the better."

"Oh!" says Mrs. Lukin, a-bustin' out, "we only come for your sake as becomes Christshuns, for friends 'ave adwised us to go to my sliciter, as I would 'ave done, but didn't like to ruin you in Chancery."

I says, "You can try and ruin me if you likes, but let me know what I've done, as may be some mistake."

"No," says Maria, "it's no mistake, but in print, as you may see," she says, a-'oldin' out to me a bit of print as 'ad been cut out of a paper.

I says, "I don't want to see it; tell me what it is."

"Why," says Maria, "it's 'ere printed as you said as parties as went with Mr. Cook to the 'ighlands was sich numbers that at one place there

wasn't beds enough in the 'otels, so some was obligated to be sent to the Union."

I says, "I never uttered such a thought from my brain."

"Yes," says Mrs. Lukin, "you must, or else 'ow would any one 'ave knowed as me and Maria was at the Union, as is no work'us, but a first-class 'otel up at Inverness, and as you've been and run down 'cos you was left behind; and all your own fault, as no doubt did it for the purpose, to 'ave a spree all by yourself, thro' not a-likin' them tea-total ways."

I did feel 'arf inclined for to take 'em both by the shoulders and turn 'em slap out of the place, and I would 'ave done it too, only but for the neighbours, as is a pryin' lot.

I says, "I don't care what paper it's in or out on, but all I got to say is, as if you takes offence at such a expression, if used, you did ought to be shet up in a glass case, and showed for curiosities."

Maria says, "Ma, come away. I told you to 'ave the law on her, as would be sure to insult us."

Says Mrs. Lukin, "Are you a-goin' to apolergise in the 'Times'?"

I says, "No, not in the 'Times' nor nowheres else, as 'ave done nothink to you."

Says Maria, "You 'ave. You've said we was sent to the Union in Scotland."

I says, "I never did say so, but I can now, with a clear conscience."

"Who dares to say so?" says she.

"Why, you told me so yourself jest now," says I.

"Ah!" says she, "this comes of goin' about with such a wulgar old woman."

"Now," I says, "to come the Merrykin over you, jest you clear out, the pair on you; and send me that eighteenpence as you borrowed at 'Ollyrood in postage stamps;" and I opens the door for 'em.

Says Mrs. Lukin, "You shall 'ear from my sliciter."

I says, "By all means, pay in six-and-eightpence to send me eighteenpence; that's the sort of work such a lawyer's as yourn would like;" and out I bundles 'em.

I sat down and 'ad a good think when they was gone, a-tryin' to recollect if ever I 'ad used sich a espression, and then remembered as there 'ad been some jokin' comin' away from Inverness about goin' to the Union; as shows 'ow careful parties did ought to be on their guard a-speakin', as a word took the wrong way will set the world in a blaze; but I never got my eighteenpence, nor yet the lawyer's letter, from Mrs. Lukin, as ain't such a fool as she looks, as the sayin' is.

I must say as there's some things in Scotland

as I do not 'old with, for they was a-tellin' me a story all about a young 'ooman as were a bold, bad 'ussey, and 'ad a lover as were some furriner, as she wrote to, more like a fool as she were.

Well, this 'ere feller were a low-lived wretch, and 'er no better, tho' callin' 'erself a lady, and wanted 'er to give 'im money, and 'cos she wouldn't, said as he'd show 'er letters, as was busters.

So, to stop 'is mouth she comes the carney over 'im a-pretendin' as she loved 'im better than ever, and took and give 'im pisoned sweetmeats, as pretty soon settled 'is 'ash.

She were tried for the murder, but got off 'cos nobody see 'er put the pison in them sugar-plums, tho' everybody knowed as she was guilty, and they only said as it was not proven. So there she was got off as in course was only thro' money; and is married and a-doin' well somewhere.

"Well," I says to the lady as were a-tellin' me about it, "she've got off this time, but it'll come 'ome to 'er, a wretch; and as to the man as could marry such a wiper, let's 'ope as she'll pison 'im and them as got 'er off, and come to the gallows at last, as is 'er just due; wherever she may be as I'd tell 'er to 'er face."

Tho' it's werry hawful when you comes to think as it may come 'ome to 'er some day when she's a-fancyin' it's all forgot, and pre'aps she'll be in a 'ome

as might be 'appy with children round 'er, as 'andsome as they say she was, but not sich devils 'arts, let's 'ope, and the blow may come thro' one on 'em, and pre'aps the one she doats on most, as'll be all smilin' and gay in 'er arms just afore goin' to bed, and be took with croup in the middle of the night.

Ah! I've knowed a case like that tho' the party were not Scotch, nor 'adn't done no murder, but she'd done the next wust thing—she'd left a fond and lovin' 'usban' with a fool as said he loved 'er better.

I shan't never forget bein' sent for in a 'urry by a friend of mine as kep' the 'otel where they was a-stoppin'

Not but what we all thought as they was man and wife.

I got to that 'otel late, and was showed up to the lady as looked a deal whiter than the musling dressin'-gownd as she'd got on, and was a-bendin' over the bassinet, with 'er lovely 'air all down.

She starts up when I went in, and says, "They tell me you've great experience; look at 'im, tell me will he die."

I looked at the child, and see as there wasn't the slightest hopes, more thro' 'is breathin' than 'is looks.

I says to 'er, "He's werry bad."

"Oh, no," she says, "he's better—much better;

we've 'ad three physiccans, and the doctor here says 'is pulse is better."

I took the poor little dear in my arms, and says to 'er, "Don't fret for 'im," for he was a fine little boy as ever I see, but a-dyin' fast. I says, "It's no use deceivin' you, mum, he's a-goin' fast to 'is 'appy 'ome."

She give a shriek as brought a young gentleman into the room, as 'is eyes was bloodshot, and 'is 'air all wild.

He says, "What is it?"

She says, "Send this 'orrid old woman away; she's killin' baby."

I says to 'im, "Take the lady out of the room as can't bear the sight."

He says, "What sight?" and rushes to me.

I says, "This!" a-lookin' down at that dear little soul as was jest a-breathin' away from its little body.

I never 'eard a man give a more dreadful groan than 'im, as he rushed frantic like out of the room.

As to 'er, she was fainted dead away, and two maids was a-lookin' arter 'er on the sofy.

So as there wasn't nothink to be done, I give up the dear little body to 'is nurse, and was a-goin' away, when Mrs. Brittel, as kep' the 'ouse, says to me, "I wish you could stay and watch 'er to-night, for I'm sure she ain't safe to be left alone."

I says, "Surely 'er 'usban' is enough."

Jest then the waiter come up and told 'er as the gentleman 'ad ordered a fly, and was goin' to town as was only Richmond.

She says, "No doubt to fetch 'er mother, or some one to 'er."

So she says to me, "Do stop till he gets back."

So I says, "Certingly, tho' I don't think as she'll care to 'ave me about 'er."

She says, "Poor thing, she won't be sensible for a good bit."

Certingly when I went back to 'er she lay a-moanin' on 'er bed as tho' 'er senses was gone for ever.

They'd got 'er to bed, and the doctor come in, see 'er, but didn't give 'er nothink, only said she was to be kep' quiet, with constant rags and cold water to 'er 'ead.

It must 'ave been pretty nigh twelve o'clock as she woke up, and looked at me werry 'ard, but didn't say a word.

I offered 'er some drink, but she put it away werry gently, and then she says to me, "Please give me my small sachel," as were a-layin' on a table.

So I give it 'er in course, and says, "Take a little of this, ma'am."

She says, "What is it?"

I says, "What the doctor ordered?"

She shook 'er 'ead and says, "No! I'll take my own medicine presently."

She says, "Will you go and tell the gentleman, my—you know—that I want to see 'im."

I says, "I don't think as he've returned, but I'll ring and ask."

She didn't say anythink, and I never see 'er open that sachel, as she must 'ave done it while I rang the bell.

I asked 'em as answered the bell at the door if the gentleman was returned? and they said "No."

So I turns and tells the lady.

She says, "He's gone, is he? I knew it."

Her way was werry odd like, so I thought I'd 'ave 'er own nuss with me, and was a-goin' to ring the bell when she stopped me, and says, "I want to speak to you."

I went to 'er, and she clutched my 'and and said, "Don't move till I 'ave spoken."

She stopped and put 'er 'and to 'er side as tho' in pain; and then she said, "I am dyin'"

I was a-rushin' to the bell, for she turned such a colour, that I felt it was true what she'd said.

She says, "Too late, too late. I am dyin' I did it myself. It is God's judgment on a wicked wretch," and then she gasped out what I 'ope was "mercy, mercy," twice.

I couldn't get away from 'er to ring the bell, so

called out so loud, as I was 'eard, and they come into the room, but all was over.

'Ow she pisoned 'erself I can't tell, no more couldn't the doctors neither, not as it mattered, for there was a end of 'er, and as to 'im, some one told me as he went over to Merryker and fought in them battles, and was killed, or died, or somethink, but I couldn't 'elp bein' sorry for 'im, for he was werry young, and all as I've got to say is, as when a married 'ooman goes off like that, I'm sure it must be 'er as give the encouragement.

Tho' it ain't for us to pass no judgments in them cases, but as to any one as commits a murder, why they did ought to be proved guilty, or else be let off as innocent, and not sent out with a thing like that a-stickin' to 'em, not as that fieldmale as I were a-speakin' about can complain, as is well married, and 'ad scores of offers, but I wouldn't 'ave 'er conscience nor yet 'er punishment, when that day comes, as there won't be no werdicts of non proven to save us.

They do say as some Scotch parents is werry strict, but all as ever I've know'd 'as been werry indulgent and kind, and in my opinion too many sweeties as they calls 'em, not but what I 'olds with children bein' indulged, so long as they ain't spilte, as is two werry different things.

The old lady where I lodged in Edinbro', she

give me a long account of 'er 'usband as 'ad been one of them sewere fathers as was a reg'lar old dragon, with 'is son as drove the boy away from 'ome, and wouldn't let 'is daughter marry the man as she loved.

That poor mother 'ad a nice time of it, a-pinchin' 'erself every way to send a trifle to that boy as 'ad enlisted, and were sent away to Ingy, and was obligated for to wink at 'er daughter's gettin' married on the sly, as was the best thing to be done under the circumstances, but that old father never would give in, nor look at 'is own child as come a widder to 'is door with two 'elpless children.

The poor old lady wep' bitter a-tellin' me about it, tho' many years ago, for she said it quite broke 'er 'art, not bein' able to bear to see 'er own flesh and blood with nothink but the poor'ouse before 'em, that cruel evenin' in November, as she come to the door, for they was a-livin' up near Aberdeen, as is a wild place, and bitter cold, with the snow a-fallin', and that old beast 'ad been out a-lookin' as 'is sheep was all right for the night, and 'ad jest come in when that poor creetur' come to the door, as he went to answer 'isself, and shet it in 'er face.

Well, that were too much for 'er, leastways I 'opes so, for any mother as ever were a mother.

So she says, "Are you a-goin' to turn 'er and the bairns," as is Scotch for children, "from your door?"

"Yes," says he, "and you open it to them at your peril."

So she says, "I looked at 'im werry 'ard," and says, "you mean it, my Joe," not as 'is name were Joe, but Alesander, as they calls Sandy in Scotch.

He says, "I do, and I've sworn to it."

She says, "Werry well," and not another word did she utter, but she give 'im 'is supper, but never took sup nor bit 'erself.

Then she went to 'er own room and just took 'er plaid and a few clothes, and the money as she could call 'er own, and went out by the kitchen door, and there she met 'im, as ordered 'er not to move, but she was made of the same tough stuff as 'im, and she defied 'im, and when he'd 'ave laid 'is 'and on 'er, bade 'im stand back at 'is peril, and went 'er way and found 'er daughter, as was dyin', and nussed 'er to the last, and brought up both them children, as is doin' well, and never set eyes on 'er 'usban' ag'in till he lay in 'is coffin, for he wouldn't 'ave 'er sent for tho' he knew he was a dyin' man, thro' bein' one of them as if he said a thing he'd stick to it right or wrong, as may be a fine character, but give me them as ain't quite so positive, as we did ought all to remember as we are but blind mortals as is only dust and hashes; but some of them Scotch is that firm as you might pick 'em to bits with red 'ot pinchers, and they'd never give in.

That's why they're such sojers as'll obey orders, and never draw back when they're told to go for'ard, as is all right so long as they don't carry it too far, 'cos it's foolishness for to go over a pressipitch just for the look of the thing, tho' warned of your danger, as is what I calls pride, as goes afore distraction, as the sayin' is.

I was werry much pleased with some of them sheep dogs up in the 'ighlands, as is remarkable clever.

It's downright wonderful 'ow them shepherds knows all the sheep, one by one, as 'ave their senses and ain't dumb, for I'm sure I couldn't never tell one from another if I lived with 'em all my life, tho' I certingly can tell a good leg of mutton from a bad one the moment I sets eyes on it, as is much the same thing, arter all.

But 'ow them dogs should know their own sheep it's wonderful, as ain't no judges of mutton, and will go arter one for days and never leaves the shepherd; even goes to 'is kirk with 'im on a Sunday, and will stop there asleep, enjoyin' the day of rest all the time, till the minister gives the blessin', and then rouses 'imself and the shepherd too, in a minit.

I can't say as I cares about porridge myself, and I should get tired of salmon if I lived there constant; but likes some of them dishes, partikler collops and kidney soup.

It's downright wonderful to 'ear old parties speak about the travellin', as did used to take weeks where it don't now take days, as shows what steam will do; and it's a wonder to me as they don't use it for to drag parties up some of them 'ills, as is that steep, and them shaggy ponies as they uses is little, ill-contrived brutes, as stubborn as mules, tho' werry sensible, and takes a deal of pride in showin' off the beautiful scenery, as they'll stop of their own accord at pints as is finest, and you can't get 'em on till you've looked, and it's the same with gentlemen's carriage-'orses, I've 'eard say.

Tho' I can't say as I cared about one view, as they took me up a 'igh 'ill to see on a pony, as was werry steep, for I never see nothink, thro' bein' all terror from the moment I got on, for fear as that little brute should go, and topple me over the side; for he would lag behind and pick up every bit of grass, as growed that near the hedge as he give me the creeps, and tho' he wasn't much 'igher than a footstool, yet must 'ave been uncommon strong and made nothink of me, and would, now and then, give a bit of a trot, to show 'ow light I was to 'im, as shook me pretty near to death.

At last I got that terrified with 'im a-goin' so near the pressipitch, that I calls out to a party in the name of Macphelin as was along with us, a remarkable fine man, and begs as he'd come and draw

that pony down the bank ag'in, as 'ad walked up one near as steep as a wall for to get a bunch of grass.

He, like a hidjot, come a-rushin' at the pony's 'ead, as give a twist as nearly sent me off.

So I 'ollers out, and Mr. Macphelin give me 'is 'and; but, some'ow, I were too far gone, and over the bank I went, pony and all, a-draggin' Macphelin over too.

It's a mercy as that hannimile didn't roll over me the same as Mr. Macphelin did, as pretty near crushed me, and goodness knows where I should 'ave rolled to, but for a big stone as I come bump ag'in, as checked me.

As to Mr. Macphelin, he was up like a lark, and 'ollered to me, as couldn't answer 'im for want of breath, but at last were able to set up and waive my umbreller to 'im.

When he come up he was a-yellin' like a Scotch maniac with larfture, and said as he must larf, tho' never a-believin' afore as there was any 'ooman as could pull 'im and a pony over together.

But I esplained to 'im, as it were thro' the side saddle, as in course throwed the weight all on one side of the pony, as 'ad took to 'is 'eels and lewanted, and a nice walk I 'ad 'ome, as comin' down 'ill shakes me to death.

I was in that rage with Brown, as kep' on a-

sayin' as I crushed the pony to such atomes as they couldn't find a bit on 'im, and as 'ow that the Society for the Cruelty of Hanimals would be down on me, let alone the damages he'd 'ave to pay to them as the pony belonged to.

I says, "I'll make 'em pay, a-darin' to put me on a brute as couldn't never 'ave been broke proper."

"Well," says Brown, "he's broke enough now;" and that grinnin' Macphelin, as 'ad a mouth like a letter-box wide open, kep' on a-bustin' out a-sayin' as the poor beast were to be pitied, and never a thought on my bruises, as they recommended me to rub with whiskey, as brought all the skin off, and my left arm were a sight thro 'em.

It certingly is wonderful to think as you can be up in London in twelve 'ours, and I must say as I'm thankful for steam, as I'm sure I never could 'ave got to Scotland without; for as to me a-ridin' all the way up behind Brown on a 'orse, I never could, as were the way as old Mrs. McDrawley's mother come when George the Fourth were a infant, as ain't so long ago arter all, and three weeks on the road, thro' a-stoppin' to sleep.

Certingly them mails trains travels wonderful, but nothink like Queen Wictoria, as goes along that quick that they're obligated to clear the line, for fear of any hitch, as there will be sometimes even in

Scotland, with a engine in front on her to knock everythink out of the way, and tons of hice piled up all over 'er 'ead, to keep her cool, as is 'ighly necessary in the dog days, and no doubt that's 'ow they can lay the dust for her, as, in course, the hice a-meltin' would trickle down for all the world like a steam water-cart all along the road, as only shows what can be done.

I must say as I'm glad to be 'ome and no bones broke, for certingly Scotland is a scramblin' up and down sort of a place, and I do think as to go and risk your life, jest to say as you've been up a 'igh 'ill, is downright fool'ardy, and only done out of bravo, as the sayin' is, and pre'aps to leave a wife and family behind.

As I says to Brown, "If you goes a-climbin' up them impossible places and meets your end like that, I'll never forgive you the longest day I lives, and shan't 'ave no respect for your memory, as couldn't be showed proper, and your body never found to give you no funeral, not as you need ever look for more than a 'earse and pair and two mournin' coaches at the outside, not as ever you'd see me out of black no more," tho' I will not promise perpetshal weeds, tho' some do consider 'em a safeguard, tho' I 'ave 'eard the remark as they're werry like 'avin' lodgin's to let in the winder.

But, law bless me, I don't want no more

'usban's, and only 'opes as the one as I've got may be spared many year; for, I'm sure, if he was took, with all 'is faults, I should never 'old up my 'ead ag'in, nor yet think of goin' about nowheres, not even in Cook's escursions, as is like a 'appy 'ome.

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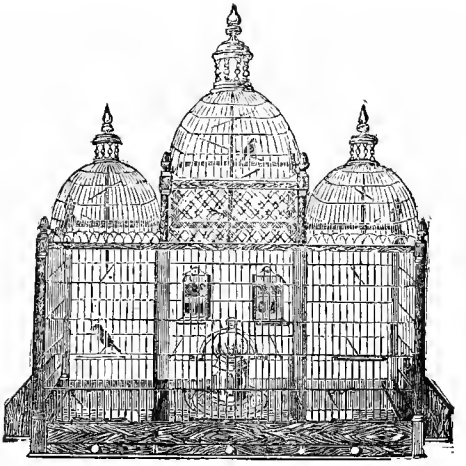

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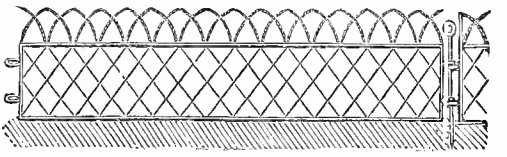

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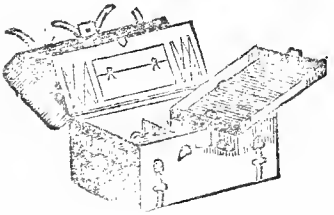

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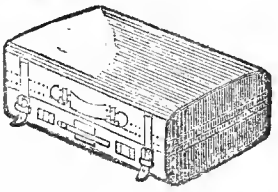

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